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American battleship leaves Gulf

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16, (AP) — The battleship Iowa and two escort warships are steaming home from the Gulf and another ship is scheduled to leave soon in the first real reduction of the US fleet in the war zone between Iraq and Iran, the Defense Department announced today.

The movement of the Iowa and its escorts over the weekend cuts the US naval force in and around the Gulf to 25 vessels, Assistant Defense Secretary Richard Armitage told reporters.

He said the helicopter carrier Okinawa will leave for home by the end of this month with its complement of mine-hunting helicopters.

Armitage also told reporters today that the Defense Department will send a delegation to Baghdad this week to discuss further safety measures to protect US shipping from accidental attack by Iraqi warplanes.

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تج کے اردو صفحات میں

بین الاقوامی اور عربی کارروائی

کے لیے یا سرعہ رفت

سویٹ یونین سے پاکستان کا

مطالبہ

سری لنکین قلم کار کا قتل

تایل بانی نے خودکشی کر لی

ایر طاؤس وزیر اعظم کے دفتر

کے سامنے کاروں میں دھاوا

ہنگویش میں سیاسی رہنماؤں

کی گرفتاری

بھارت میں علاقائی تحریکیں

WEATHER

TEMPERATURE will be around normal with moderate northwesterly wind which may freshen at times. State of sea: moderate to fresh. High water: 10.00 am, 12.00 pm. Low water: 5.00 am, 5.30 pm. Sunrise: 6.26 am. Sunset: 5.39 pm. Maximum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 19°C 66°F. Ahmedi: 18°C 64°F. Fakhra: 18°C 64°F. Minimum temperature expected: Kuwait: 22°C 72°F. Ahmedi: 17°C 63°F. Fakhra: 17°C 63°F. Minimum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 10°C 50°F. Ahmedi: 12°C 54°F. Fakhra: 12°C 54°F. Maximum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 51 per cent. Ahmedi: 98 per cent. Fakhra: 98 per cent. Maximum humidity expected: Kuwait: 85 per cent. Ahmedi: 80 per cent. Fakhra: 80 per cent.

Arafat vows voyage will take place

PLO to retaliate for ship explosion

YASSER Arafat said yesterday the PLO might retaliate against Israel for Monday's bomb attack on a PLO-chartered ship in Cyprus.

The PLO leader blamed Israeli agents for the blast which disabled the car ferry Sol Phryne in the Cypriot port of Limassol. The PLO had hired the boat to take 106 deported Palestinians on a symbolic voyage back to Israel.

Arafat also accused the Israeli secret service Mossad of killing three senior PLO officials in a car bomb attack in Limassol on Sunday.

"If Mossad thinks it can at any moment assassinate some of our heroes... they should not think our hand is short. They know more than others that we can get them in many places at any time," he told a news conference.

Pledged

Arafat appeared to repudiate the PLO's 1986 Cairo agreement in which it pledged to halt military operations against Israel targets outside Israel and the occupied territories.

"Patience has its limits," he said. "The Cairo announcement is not a commitment from one side only. The Israelis must understand that the sword of terrorism has two edges."

Arafat said he had contacted the Egyptian authorities, as witnesses to the Cairo agreement, to tell them of his stand.

Voyage

Arafat vowed the voyage would take place despite the setbacks. "There are continuous attempts to find an alternative to this ship which has been bombed and burned," he said.

"The problem is one of time, especially since a number of guests and friends have been with us in Athens waiting to sail. They have other commitments."

The PLO originally planned to start the voyage from Greece where several hundred journalists and observers assembled more than a week ago in hopes of accompanying the ship.

Arafat said the PLO had chartered ships from three maritime companies in the past several weeks but each one had backed out at the last minute under what he called Israeli and American



HH the Amir yesterday received PLO chairman, Yasser Arafat.

pressure. Arafat said the voyage was not a public relations operation but a demonstration of the legitimate right of Palestinians to return to their homeland.

"Israel and its allies are trying to strike from the political dictionary our inalienable right to return," he said.

Escalate

He did not elaborate on how or where the PLO might retaliate for the Sol Phryne blast. But he said it had already decided to escalate military operations outside the occupied territories.

The uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip were the main topic in talks yesterday between Arafat and HH the Amir of Kuwait, one of the PLO's strongest backers.

Arafat said only two Arab governments — Kuwait and Iraq — had supported the Palestinian demonstrations with contributions.

At least 56 Palestinians have been killed by Israelis in the occupied territories since early December, Arafat put the death toll at 118.

"This battle with the Israeli enemy cannot stop except through victory and raising of

the Palestinian flag over a free and independent Palestine," he said.

He denied that the uprising was influenced by Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini and noted that an upsurge in the revolt takes place mainly on two days: on Friday after the noon prayers and on Sunday after the Christian services.

Arafat acknowledged the role of Iranian documents in the uprising, noting that many of them were inducted into the Palestine National Council during its latest session in Algiers last year. Arafat denounced a forthcoming trip to the Middle East later this month by US Secretary of State George Shultz.

Conflict

New American proposals to end the Middle East conflict call for limited Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories and an international meeting leading to direct Arab-Israeli talks.

"Shultz is trying to sell rotten goods on the market as if they were new. He is bringing something even less than Camp David," Arafat said.

An official at the PLO office in Nicosia said: "There are alternatives. We are not desperate," when asked what the PLO planned to do after the explosion crippled

pled the Sol Phryne.

The official, who asked not to be named, would not say whether the PLO has found another boat. Bassam Abu Sharif, the PLO's chief spokesman in Athens who has been overseeing preparations for the voyage, had said: "We are continuing our plans and we will sail, in spite of Israeli terrorists who are using bombs against ideas, noble ideas."

But the ship's captain, Cleanthis Vlahopoulos, said it would take "several months" to make the Sol Phryne seaworthy again.

Terrorist image dispelled

CHICAGO, Feb. 16, (AP) — A Northwestern University professor who has lived with Palestinian refugees in the Gaza Strip said yesterday he wants to dispel the "mad-dog terrorist" image they have among many Westerners.

"They are the most hospitable, gracious and courteous people one could encounter and I've studied with other cultures," said Dwight Conquergood, an associate professor who specializes in studying refugee cultures. Conquergood visited the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip during the summers of 1986 and 1987 before the rash of violent confrontations between Israeli soldiers and stone-throwing youths about two months ago.

"The kids throwing rocks have lived all their lives behind barbed wire," said Conquergood. "This was my first experience living under military occupation," said Conquergood.

"I had a visual understanding of what they had to live with day after day. It was scary."

"As my Palestinian friends say, the Israeli soldiers are continually trying to remind the people they don't belong there. It makes them feel less than human," he said.

Three Arabs shot and wounded on 'day of wrath'

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, Feb. 16, (AP) — Israeli soldiers shot and wounded three Arabs in clashes today, hospital officials said. Palestinian youths stoned cars and torched buses to enforce a general strike in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Stores were closed throughout the occupied territories after leaflets calling for a "day of wrath" urged residents to stage commercial strikes and stay home from their jobs.

In the occupied West Bank village of Kabatiyeh near Nablus, 50 kilometres (35 miles) north of Jerusalem, troops opened fire to disperse protesters, and two Arabs in their 20s were wounded in the legs, the Arab-run Palestine Press Service said.

Protest

Soldiers shot and wounded a third Palestinian during a protest in Jenin, north of Nablus, the agency said.

Doctors at Jenin Hospital confirmed they had treated two Kabatiyeh men and a third from Jenin for gunshot wounds.

Army officials said troops shot and wounded one protester in Kabatiyeh after he tried to wrestle a gun away from a soldier, but said they did not have information about other shootings.

In East Jerusalem, police dispersed Arab youths who threw stones and erected road blocks in several locations.

In the Anata neighbourhood, police battled about 50 protesters. A photograph of a police chase of youth of about 14 up a hill and detain him. The boy's barefooted mother pleaded for his release, but to no avail.

Firebomb

In the Gaza Strip, Arab youths stoned cars and placed nails and metal scraps on roads to prevent workers from leaving for their jobs, Israeli Radio said.

In the West Bank village of Al Majd near Hebron, masked youths torched an Israeli bus, the Army said.

The Army clamped a curfew on Idna near Hebron after protesters threw a firebomb at a tank carrier that had entered the village by mistake, the Army said. The carrier was destroyed,

but no one was injured.

In the Gaza Strip, youths burned tyres at the entrance to Gush Qatif, a group of Jewish settlements along the Mediterranean shore, Israeli Radio said.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, on his first overseas visit since unrest flared in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, has met open disagreement in Italy over his Middle East policy.

Shamir began a three-day visit to Italy yesterday with separate meetings with President Francesco Cossiga and Jewish leaders. Sharp differences were evident at both meetings.

Stressed

He said Cossiga stressed Italy's view that an international Middle East conference, backed by Arab leaders and the United Nations, was the best chance for negotiated peace in the area.

Shamir, a fierce opponent of such an initiative, said he felt it was not the best formula for Israel but expressed interest in US proposals which he said had some useful ideas.

Soviet and Palestinian envoys were in Jordan today for talks with government officials on Middle East peace proposals, including the US initiative which has won little support in the region.

The official Jordanian news agency Petra said Vladimir Polyakov, Director of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Middle East desk, arrived today from Syria on a two-day visit.

Talks

Government officials said Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai met PLO envoy Mahmoud Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen, for talks on the US initiative.

US Secretary of State George Shultz is due to begin a Middle East trip next week to revive deadlocked peace process.

Dudun said Polyakov would be briefed on King Hussein's recent tour of European capitals to muster support for such a conference.

Rifai returned yesterday from a visit to Syria and Egypt to discuss an unified Arab position to present to Shultz and is due to make similar trips to Iraq and Saudi Arabia soon.

Popular Colombo leader shot dead

COLOMBO, Feb. 16, (Reuters) — Gunmen killed a popular Sri Lankan film star-turned-politician today, two days after he said he would "sacrifice" his life to reconcile feuding Sinhalese and Tamils on the island.

Police said Vijaya Kumaranatunga, leader of the leftist Sri Lanka Mahajana Party, was shot in the face at close range with an automatic rifle outside his home here. The two gunmen escaped on a motorcycle.

Meanwhile, two bombs exploded in a crowded Hindu temple during a religious festival in Colombo today, killing at least seven people and injuring 12, police and witnesses said.

They said the bombs were set off as hundreds of worshippers celebrated the "Maha Sivarathri" festival to honour the deity Shiva at Sri Manikappillayar Temple at Bambahalapiya, about 3 km (two miles) from the city centre.

Police and witnesses said the two bombs went off within minutes of each other under two brass oil lamps which had been lit for the religious service.

Police and troops sealed off the crowded commercial and residential areas.

Political sources said the shooting was apparently carried out by the outlawed Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) — the People's Liberation Front — which Kumaranatunga criticised on Sunday for a series of political killings.

The predominantly Sinhalese JVP, banned in 1983 for anti-Tamil activities, has strenuously opposed last year's Indo-Sri Lankan accord to end a four-year-long Tamil separatist revolt.

Kumaranatunga, valed the island's most popular actor two years ago, was a supporter of the pact.

Police have blamed the JVP for a string of killings of government and opposition politicians supporting the accord as well as for the attempted assassination of President Junius Jayewardene in Parliament House last August.

Thousands of sobbing fans surrounded the hospital where the body of the 42-year-old Kumaranatunga, star of more than 100 Sinhalese films, was brought, witnesses said.

A hearse carrying his shroud-wrapped body to the mortuary was mobbed and glass side-panels wrenched out. Police were called to restrain nuder.

Kumaranatunga was married to Chandrika, the younger daughter of two former prime ministers, Solomun Bandaranaike and Sirima Bandaranaike.

Kumaranatunga, left, the Freedom Party founded by his father-in-law and formed the Mahajana Party four years ago.

In New Delhi, an External Affairs Ministry spokesman said the Indian government condemned the killing.

Indian troops deployed in Sri Lanka under the accord continued today to hunt Tamil rebels in the north and east, security sources said.

DAY BY DAY

(WONDER why the Interior Minister does not meet with company representatives and hotel owners and listen to their opinions about the recent residence permit regulations. After all, this meeting would be an opportunity to hear about problems related to residency, whether they involve permanent residency permits, temporary residency or visit visas.

We should listen to these people to avoid finding our country without any visitors. Of course, we support the protection of the country's security, but this issue can be addressed in ways other than completely closing the country.

We want some flexibility regarding the issue of visit visas; especially when they involve applications from nationalities who come from countries which are secure, are not involved in terrorism, and pose no threat to us.

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Police raid former Ershad minister's office

Three opposition leaders held

DHAKA, Feb. 16, (Reuters) — Police arrested three Bangladeshi opposition leaders, raided a former minister's office and searched homes of several dissidents today to dampen protests ahead of parliamentary elections next month.

Police moved a day after President Hossain Mohammad Ershad said he would mobilise troops to maintain order during the election which opposition leaders have said they will boycott.

Police said Sajeda Choudhury, Awami League general secretary, and retired Colonels Akbar Hossain and Oali Ahmed of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, were arrested early in the morning.

"Carloads of policemen stormed our house... and ransacked furniture before they whisked my

husband away," Ahmed's wife said in a telephone interview.

Home Minister Abdul Matin said the three were given one month's detention under the Special Powers Act to forestall an opposition plan to disrupt the polls on March 3.

Twenty-one opposition parties, campaigning since last November for Ershad's resignation, have refused to take part in the election.

Ershad said yesterday he would take all necessary steps, including the deployment of troops, to ensure a peaceful election.

At least 152 people were killed in violence surrounding rural council elections last week in Bangladesh.

Matin said police also raided homes of several other opposition leaders considered by the

government as "risk factors" but all went into hiding to escape arrest.

The 1972 Special Powers Act allows the government to jail anyone for up to six months without giving specific reasons.

Police also searched the business office of former minister Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury in the southern port town of Chittagong. A police official said they were checking his tax papers.

"They rummaged my office for nearly two hours in search of something they wouldn't let me know," Chowdhury told reporters.

Chowdhury and former Information Minister Anwar Zahid resigned from Ershad's cabinet last month, saying the March 3 election would be meaningless if opposition groups did not take part.

INTERNATIONAL

Chinese welcome Year of the Dragon

BEIJING, Feb 16, (Agencies): Tens of millions of peasant families slaughtered their fatted pigs to welcome returning relatives and to feast the arrival this week of the Year of the Dragon, the most auspicious sign in the Chinese zodiac.

According to China's 5,000-year-old calendar, the Year of the Dragon begins on Feb 18 and heralds 12 months of prosperity, action, daring and tumult after the calm and moderation of the Year of the Rabbit.

At midnight on New Year's eve, the sky over China and Chinese communities throughout Asia will explode in a cacophony of firecrackers — traditionally intended to frighten off any lingering ghosts which might cast an evil eye over the propitious moment.

Reveries seem unfazed by the hundreds of deaths and injuries sparked each year by the burst of fireworks which erupts for the five days and nights of the festival, The Year of the Dragon — the only mythical and the most magnificent of all 12 signs in China's animal zodiac — will likely be no exception, despite attempts by Beijing officials to limit sales of the deadly playthings.

Hong Kong, usually one of the busiest, noisiest places in the world, started grinding to a virtual halt today as most of its 5.6 million residents prepared for a three-day orgy of feasting and family reunions to mark the lunar New Year.

By tomorrow morning most of the territory, including the central business district on Hong Kong Island, will be deserted on the first day of celebrations marking the Year of the Dragon.

"You see, this place will be a ghost town in 24 hours," said Winston Ng, assistant manager at a large hotel overlooking Hong Kong's harbour.

"Everybody goes home — you won't get a taxi," he added.

Extra staff have been drafted to immigration desks at Kai Tak airport and the rail crossing point into China at Lo Wu.

Meanwhile, the shabby, drizzle-damp streets of Hanoi range to the tip-rap of firecrackers today as Vietnamese saw out the old lunar year and drew breath for another year of stoic struggle.

The age-old traditions on the eve of Tet, the New Year, went ahead.

Women steamed the brick-shaped, and brick-heavy, bang chung rice cakes, and put up pink-flowering peach trees and miniature orange bushes to herald spring and the family gathered round the home.

Army seeks tougher anti-rebel laws

Aquino rules out martial law

MANILA, Feb 16, (Reuters): Philippine President Corason Aquino said today suggestions she would declare martial law were ridiculous, but her Army asked congress for tougher laws to help it fight a communist insurgency.

Meanwhile, the commander of a major US airbase near Manila said American were taking "very seriously" rebel threats to kill American servicemen and that base officials had taken security measures to prevent attacks on personnel.

Aquino repudiated emergency rule as weapon against the guerrillas during a meeting at the presidential palace with senate defence committee chief Ernesto Maceda.

"She said it's ridiculous and out of the question," Maceda told reporters. "The sooner she squelches the idea the better because... it was never seriously in her mind."

At the House of Representatives, armed forces deputy chief Brigadier-General Honesto Falea told a congressional panel the military needed "stiffer laws" to defeat the 19-year-old communist New People's Army.

Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos told reporters the

military saw no need for martial law at present but that it wanted tougher legislation to check the rebellion, including imposing the death penalty on guerrillas.

Options

Asked whether, if the rebellion worsened, he would favour suspension of the habeas corpus rights of suspects to challenge the legality of their arrests, he said: "All of these things are under study in the sense that we must study the various options available in the constitution."

The flurry of official denials that the government was considering martial law or some form of emergency occurred hours after the lower house unanimously passed a resolution strongly opposing an emergency declaration in the Philippines.

Former President Ferdinand Marcos wielded martial law powers for 14 years but failed to quell an insurgency that grew from a few hundreds to 16,000 by the time he was overthrown in 1986. The military estimates present NPA strength at 25,000.

The military reported yesterday that 29 people had been killed in the latest violence across the country, including two policemen gunned down in Man-

ila by suspected communist hit-squads.

Aquino said before the vote that she was waiting for a formal recommendation from defence chiefs that they should have broad powers to fight the guerrillas. Aquino did not say whether she favoured the military's proposal.

Senior figures in the armed forces have called for the restoration of the death penalty and for wider powers of arrest and detention to help fight the growing communist rebellion, now entering its 20th year.

Philippine nerves are still raw from a decade of full martial law under Marcos.

Killings

In southern Sulu, military authorities reported 19 people were killed and 34 others wounded in four incidents Sunday and Monday as the remote archipelago became the last of 73 provinces to choose its provincial and municipal leaders since elections began Jan 18.

Military reports said guerrillas of the Muslim Moro National Liberation Front battled a breakaway faction called the "lost command" in the town of Maimhung Monday, leaving

nine people dead and four wounded.

The two groups were supporting rival mayoral candidates. An earlier encounter Sunday left three people dead, the reports said.

In the town of Kalingalan, five people were killed and 30 others wounded when a grenade exploded in the house of a mayoral candidate Monday, authorities said.

Two other people were killed in a gunfight in a polling centre in Kadami town Monday, police said.

More than 4,000 troops backed by ships, tanks and helicopters were placed on alert in the mainly Muslim province 600 miles (950 km) south of Manila, dominated by rival political warlords and separatist rebels.

The killings in Sulu brought to 157 the election-related death toll in the country since campaigning began in November. The elections completed the restoration of democratic institutions dismantled by former ruler Marcos.

Col. Anthony Elias said five battalions of Marines and Army troops had joined constabulary and special forces soldiers to prevent violence during voting in the province.

Palestinians clash with Nasserites

BEIRUT, Feb 16, (UPI): Palestinian commandos and Muslim Sunni militiamen clashed for two hours firing machine guns last night near refugee camps east of the southern port city of Sidon, killing one person and wounding four, police said.

They said the shooting erupted near Ain El Helweh and Miyeh Miyeh refugee camps, 37 km south of Beirut, following an argument between Palestinian commandos and militiamen of the Nasserite Popular Liberation Army of Sidon's Sunni leader Mustafa Saad.

One Sunni militiaman was killed and four people, including two Palestinian commandos and two militiamen, were wounded in the clashes which were contained following contacts between leaders of the two groups.

Saad and Palestinian officials called it an isolated incident, but political sources said it reflected growing tension between the two armed groups touched off by the abduction 11 days ago of two Scandinavian UN relief workers.

Saad has been involved in contacts and negotiations aimed at winning the release of Aja Stening, 44, of Sweden, and William Jorgensen, 58, a Norwegian, believed kidnapped by Palestin-

ians connected to Fatah faction.

An anonymous group, in an undated statement bearing the signatures of the two captives, said Saturday the two Scandinavians were seized for security reasons and "will be released within a week if interrogation proved they are innocent."

Officials at the UN relief and Works Agency (Unrwa) could not confirm the authenticity of the signatures, or alleged fingerprints of the hostages also contained in the statement.

The two men were seized Feb 5 by three gunmen as they were driving on the coastal highway in the southern outskirts of Sidon.

In a related development, UN Undersecretary Marrack Goulding arrived in Beirut today on his Middle East tour to revive peace initiatives in the region.

Political sources said Goulding's discussions with Lebanese officials will focus on efforts to free Jorgensen and Stening.

Unrwa, which employs more than 2,000 Palestinians in Lebanon, withdrew two of its international staff after the kidnapping.

Meanwhile, President Amin Gemayel today returned home from visits to Sudan and North Yemen.

Woman is victim of mistaken identity

ZEPPHYRHILLS, Florida, Feb 16, (AP): A man apparently bent on killing his former wife's boyfriend mistakenly went to the home of another man with the same last name, killing one woman and wounding two other people, police say.

"It was a one in a million case of mistaken identity," said Pasco county sheriff Jim Gillum in announcing the arrest Monday of John Edward Boggs, 55, in Vermilion, Ohio, about 1,600 kilometres north of Zephyrhills.

Boggs is accused of breaking into a darkened mobile home here last Thursday night totting a pistol and a shotgun. He fatally shot Nigel Maceras, 70, and wounded her friend Harold "Rush", 69, and her daughter Betsy Ritchie, 50, said the sheriff's spokesman.

Boggs had recently divorced his wife, Gerry, who had moved from Ohio to Zephyrhills, investigators said. She filed a complaint last year with police saying her former husband had threatened to kill her and her boyfriend.

That boyfriend's name is Gerald Rush, no relation to victim Harold Rush. Gerald Rush and Ms Boggs live in a mobile home, but on a different street from the one where the shootings occurred, authorities said.

Neighbours of the shooting victims say that on the day of the murder, Boggs was going around knocking on doors looking for a Mr Rush.

Moscow reneges on Afghan interim regime: Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Feb 16, (UPI): Pakistan accused the Soviet Union today of backtracking on the formation of an interim government in Afghanistan and said Moscow's position threatened to undermine negotiations on a withdrawal settlement.

A Foreign Office spokesman said Pakistan interpreted Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's pronouncements on a possible withdrawal, without linking it to the formation of an interim government in Kabul, as a reversal of earlier commitments to such a process.

He said Moscow's position could jeopardize efforts by UN mediator Diego Cordovez to reach agreement on a withdrawal timetable at talks in Geneva and negotiate separately on the formation of an interim government to ensure a peaceful transition.

Cordovez, the spokesman said, envisioned an "intra-Afghan dialogue" involving the resistance forces, Afghan refugees and the Soviet-installed People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan on formation of the new government.

De-linking

According to the UN envoy's general proposal, the spokesman added, none of the three groups would have a dominant position in an interim arrangement.

"Not only Pakistan but the Soviet Union, too, had endorsed the Cordovez initiative," the



Philippine policemen drag an old woman away from a squatters' colony in Quezon city after residents tried to prevent police from demolishing their shanties. (Reuters wirephoto)

Car fire near 10 Downing Street kills 1

LONDON, Feb 16, (AP): A man died early today when the car he had been driving burst into flames a few yards (metres) from Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's official London residence and office at 10 Downing Street, police reported.

Police bomb squad officers, raced to the scene fearing a possible terrorist attack but Scotland Yard said in a statement: "There was no trace of an explosive device."

The statement said the cause of the fire at the entrance to Downing Street from Whitehall, the main thoroughfare in the area, was not immediately known. "A car pulled up (halted) in Whitehall at the entrance to Downing Street and burst into flames. The fire was put out by London fire brigade and the body of a man was found inside the car," the statement said.

The incident was witnessed by a police officer on duty at the metal security barriers which separate Downing Street from Whitehall.

The car had been travelling down Whitehall from the direction of the Houses of Parliament, the statement said.

Whitehall was sealed off as police investigated the wreckage. No details about the dead man were immediately known. A fire brigade spokesman said the body had been badly burned.

Mrs Thatcher's office said in a statement that the prime minister was at 10 Downing Street at the time of the incident but had not been in any way involved.

Algeria tries to reconcile Syria, PLO

DAMASCUS, Feb 16, (Reuters): Algeria renewed its efforts to reconcile Syria and the PLO when Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Al Ibrahim met Syrian President Hafez Al Assad today, diplomats said.

Algerian President Chadli Benjedid, a major supporter of the PLO, brought Assad and Arafat together briefly during the Arab League summit in Amman last November but there have been no signs of an improvement in their relations.

Arab diplomats said Ibrahim's visit responded to a request from Arafat's Fatah group, presented to Chadli on Monday by Fatah second-in-command, Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad), asking him to reactivate his mediation efforts.

Ibrahim, who arrived in Damascus last night, earlier met Foreign Minister Farouk Al Shara. The official Syrian news agency said only that they discussed developments in the Arab world.

New Indian Army chief

NEW DELHI, Feb 16, (Reuters): Lieutenant-General Vishwanath Sharma, a 57-year-old armoured corps officer, was named today as Chief of India's 1.1 million man Army.

An official announcement said Sharma would succeed General Krishnaswamy Sundarji, who retires on April 30, his 60th birthday. Sharma currently heads the Eastern Command.

Sundarji has served as Army Chief since 1986. In June 1984, he oversaw the Indian Army assault on the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the holiest shrine of the Sikh faith, to flush out extremists.

Sundarji's predecessor and Chief of Staff during the temple assault, Arun Vaidya, was assassinated in Aug 1986 near his retirement home in Poona.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Farmers protest

NEW DELHI, Feb 16, (Reuters): Police fired on angry farmers near the north Indian city of Meerut today after they blocked highway traffic and burned police jeeps to demand cheaper electricity and higher prices for sugarcane.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) quoted an official spokesman as saying farmers set two police jeeps ablaze and stoned buses in a bid to stop the traffic.

PTI did not say if there were any casualties.

Soviet leader

BONN, Feb 16, (UPI): Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has said he wants to meet soon with West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, a West German spokesman said today.

Spokesman Friedhelm Ost said Gorbachev made the statement in a meeting last week in Moscow with Lothar Spaeth, the Premier of the West German state of Baden-Wuerttemberg.

Ost said West Germany repeatedly has stated it wants to expand relations with the Soviet Union at all levels.

Bush, Dole in neck-and-neck battle

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire, Feb 16, (Reuters): Vice-President George Bush was locked in a neck-and-neck battle with Senator Robert Dole today as New Hampshire voted in the first of a string of US presidential primary elections.

Defeat in the New England state could deal a crippling blow to the Vice-President's hopes for the Republican Party's presidential nomination.

Bush has seen his 20-point lead of two weeks ago in the northeastern state dwindle to nothing. Late polls put the two men on virtually even terms and a victory

by Dole could install the Senate Republican leader as the party's front-runner.

Among Democrats, the outcome is expected to eliminate some outsiders but still leave the race wide open.

Attention

Michael Dukakis, Governor of neighbouring Massachusetts, is heavily favoured, with the real interest focusing on the race for second between Illinois Senator Paul Simon and Missouri Congressman Richard Gephardt.

The two men have paid little

attention to Dukakis and spent much of their time attacking each other in the primary, the first in the long process to choose delegates to the Republican and Democratic nominating conventions.

New Hampshire, with a population of just over a million, has a tradition of dealing unpleasant surprises to prospective presidential candidates.

This year, Bush could fall victim to his second political misadventure in the state, political pundits say. In 1980, he came into New Hampshire on the crest of a victory in the Iowa caucuses, the first test in presidential campaigns, to be beaten by Ronald Reagan.

This time he managed only a dismal third-place showing in Iowa behind Dole and former faith-healer Pat Robertson and political experts say his campaign has since been plagued by one tactical error after the other.

Aides to the Vice President say he could still win New Hampshire but only by a slender margin, perhaps one per centage point.

Mahathir forms new political party

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 16, (Reuters): Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad said today he had formed a new Malay party and a senior minister said the country's political crisis had ended.

"All problems have been resolved, Umno (The United Malays National Organisation) is back to normal and accepted as head of the government coalition," Mahathir, 62, told reporters after a meeting with the 13 coalition leaders.

He said the new party would be known as Umno Baru (New Umno) and had been formally registered on Feb 13.

"Today's meeting was to legitimise the government to stabilise the political situation. Now we can concentrate on reviving our economy," said Primary Industries Minister Lim Keng Yaik, who heads the multi-racial but Chinese-dominated Gerakan Party.

Key role

Earlier this month the original Umno Party was declared illegal by a Malaysian court on allegations that some party branches had not been registered before the congress.

Umno had played a key role in ensuring political stability since

Malaysia won independence from Britain in 1957. Around half of the country's 16 million people are Malay, one third Chinese, 10 per cent Indian and rest from other groups.

Umno's leader, traditionally was also prime minister and the court ruling threw the South-East Asian nation's politics into confusion.

The court case was brought by 11 Umno members closely linked to former Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, who narrowly lost to Mahathir in elections for party leader at a bitter congress last April.

Car bomb hurts 10 in Tehran

NICOSIA, Feb 16, (AP): A car bomb exploded today in a residential neighbourhood of Tehran, wounding 10 people, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the bomb-laden car was parked in the Shahid Bahonar Street, formerly known as Nivaran, in northern Tehran.

It said the wounded were taken to hospital. Seven were discharged after treatment and three were hospitalised.

Several shops were damaged and window glass of apartment buildings shattered by the early morning blast, Irna added.

It said the "bomb was planted by agents of the world arrogance," but gave no other details.

The explosion came five days after Iran celebrated the 9th anniversary of its Islamic revolution.

Last month, the official media reported that four people were hanged in public for setting off car bombs in Tehran and Bakhtaran, in western Iran.

The media did not elaborate on the car bombings but said the four had been involved in smuggling cars from Iraq. Iran's chief foe, and rigging them with explosives that went off in various districts of the two cities.

The only car bombing that had been officially reported last year was one in Tehran on Sept 27. Irna reported at the time that a car bomb blew up in a street in northern Tehran, but it reported no casualties.

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Amir to patronise opening of Waterfront Project

HH THE AMIR will patronise the opening of the first and second stages of the Waterfront Project on Feb 22 as part of the celebrations of Kuwait's 27th National Day, according to a local newspaper.

The two stages are six kilometres long and run parallel to the Gulf coast, starting at the Yacht Club and ending at Kuwait Towers. The project includes several tourist facilities, such as the waterfront restaurant, the yacht club, the swimming pools complex, coastal services utilities and the Green Island, at a total cost estimated at KD38 million.

The manager of the swimming pools complex, Anwar Bu Rahma, said the complex was a great tourist attraction.

The complex covers an area of 2,257 square metres and the construction was supervised by Kuwait Municipality.

It has three levels. The basement contains equipment and water pumps.

The ground level has racing pools, 308 men's and 177 women's dressing rooms, and a big cafeteria. The first floor has halls and a restaurant seating 200 people.

Teach

He said the complex has five open swimming pools of various sizes. Special facilities have been provided for handicapped people. Each pool has a capacity of 400 to 500 swimmers. He said large areas of greenery were provided for the convenience of swimmers, and some places were

planted with flowers to improve the appearance of the complex.

The administration has plans to organise several schools to teach swimming to persons of various ages, and about eight persons have been appointed for this.

There are also several life guards and clinics.

A study is being made on the possibility of providing a gymnasium for youths and another for children.

Bu Rahma said that the administration had invited a number of students of private Arab and foreign schools to take part in the opening ceremonies to be held on Feb 24 and 25. The celebrations will include several entertainment shows and music by popular local bands.

'Indian' numerals chart for illiterates

By Jadranka Porter

AN eyespecialist at Kuwait's Ibn Sina hospital has designed an "Indian" numerals chart for checking distant vision which is expected to assess more accurately the eyesight of illiterate Arabs and those unfamiliar with the Latin script.

Dr Mahmoud Al Salem, the ophthalmologist who prepared the chart, said it would be used alongside with the one from Britain which has been in use over the past 30 years.

The shortcomings of the British chart, based on letters from the Latin script, became obvious when checking the eyesight of illiterate patients and Arabs unfamiliar with the English alphabet.

Until recently these patients' sight was checked by placing the "illiterate E" in different positions and asking the patient to identify it.

Al Salem found this inadequate and produced a chart based on "Indian" numerals, and another with sentences in Arabic in different point sizes to



Dr Mahmoud Al Salem

check near visual acuity. "Indian" numerals are the ones currently used in Arab countries while what is known as Arabic numerals are used worldwide.

A previous attempt in Egypt to design a chart for Arab patients was not successful because it was based on the Arabic alphabet which is considered as unsuitable for the purpose.

Furniture industry picking up business

KUWAIT'S furniture industry suffered during the country's economic crisis, particularly from the mid-70s to the early 80s, but, according to local manufacturers the industry is picking up as a result of the government's support and protective measures, which includes customs fees being charged for imported furniture legislated two years ago.

Local furniture companies provide maintenance services unavailable from foreign furniture companies, a Kuwaiti daily reported, and the quality of wood materials used locally is superior to that of foreign companies. Most imported furniture is made of particle board, which is made to appear like pine.

Push

Mohammed Ali, a sales manager at one company which specialises in the manufacture of home and office furniture, said his company started manufac-

turing furniture in 1979. At present customers buy more local furniture, he said, adding that customs fees have increased on all imported furniture and shipping costs are higher than ever.

Ali said that local furniture is made to order and is maintained by the company. He added that more local furniture sales are expected this year.

Nabil Hashem, general director of a local furniture factory, said the protection granted by the government to local factories gave a strong push to sales as well as encouragement to manufacturers. He said that more Kuwaiti young people and people from the Gulf states are buying Kuwait-made furniture. He added that some Arab countries charge customs fees on furniture imported from Kuwait, some as high as 200 percent.

Hashem said the local furniture industry needs more manpower to boost its production.

Sheikh Nawaf meets envoys

DEFENCE Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed yesterday received ambassadors of Mauritania, Mohammed Abdel Qader, of China, Quan Che, Soviet Union's Ernest Zverev and Lebanon's Adnan Badra.

The ambassadors of these countries extended their congratulations to Sheikh Nawaf on the occasion of his appointment as a defence minister and discussed with them aspects of bilateral cooperation between Kuwait and their respective states.

Later on, the defence minister

received Minister of Health Dr Abdel Razzaq Alabdel Razzaq and Abdul Rahman Al Ghunaim.

Attempt to steal foiled

AN attempt to steal the safe at the Immigration Department of Hawalli governorate was foiled yesterday.

The public relations department of the Interior Ministry said investigations were being made.

More women joining anti-illiteracy centre

THE director of the anti-illiteracy department, Abdul Aziz Al Najdi, praised the large number of women joining the women's anti-illiteracy centre.

He referred to a recent decision by the Education Minister to set up a committee to review and simplify the anti-illiteracy programmes.

He added that the primary problems faced by the centre included frequent and slackening of interest. He stressed the importance of awareness campaigns to attract women to join the centre.

He said the centre also offered educational programmes on household activities, cooking, sewing and tailoring.

Symposium on protected agriculture

A SYMPOSIUM dealing with protected agriculture in Kuwait was held by the Kuwait Agricultural Engineers Society recently.

Khaddar Mohammed Al Mazidi, the head of the protected agriculture section at Kuwait's Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources, said protected agriculture in Kuwait is in an experimental stage and is being attempted to overcome the harsh climatic here. He added that such sheltered environments play an important role in establishing agricultural production around the world.

He said that most vegetables grown in Kuwait require temperatures ranging from 26 to 30 degrees centigrade during the day and from 20 to 25 centigrade at night. He advised farmers to use adequate air conditioning to overcome temperature increases.

Palestinian exhibition

THE 6th Annual Palestinian exhibition was opened at the Science College in Khaldiya on Monday under the patronage of Kuwait University's Secretary-General Dr Hussein Al-Mahmoud.

Abdullah Mohammed, speaking at the exhibition entitled "Arms of Faith to Liberate Palestine," said the exhibition had come to reflect the true reality emphasising the Islamic roots of the popular uprising in occupied Palestine.

The Chairman of Kuwaiti Student Union, speaking to the group, identified the three types of Jihad, which included Jihad of the self, Jihad related to money and Jihad by word of mouth. He stressed that the last two formed the major understanding of Jihad in Islam.

Awadi holds meeting

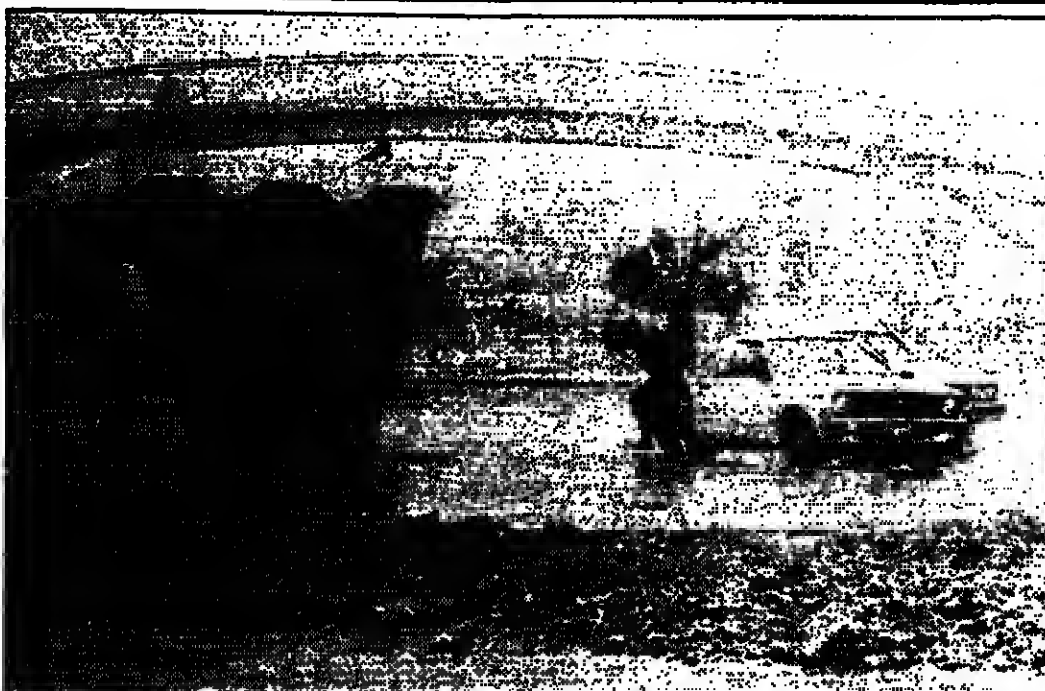
KUWAIT'S Planning Minister Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi held a meeting at his office on Monday to discuss recommendations made regarding Kuwait's planning scheme and to begin work on the long-term plan till the year 2015.

Speaking to Al-Sayassah newspaper, Dr Awadi said that more sessions would be scheduled to discuss Kuwait's long-term planning strategy and to finalise the next stage of the work progress.

Industrial exhibition

THE Kuwait International Fair Company is preparing for the Kuwait Industries Exhibition which will open on Feb 23 under the patronage of the Minister of Commerce and Industry Faisal Al Khaldi.

The exhibition, to be held on the occasion of the National Day celebrations, will feature 70 Kuwaiti factories and companies with displays of their products.



● A heavy downpour in Kuwait yesterday sent pedestrians running for cover. The man pictured above attempts to protect himself from the rain with a paper as he dashes for the bus shelter.

Accept peace, Iran urged

HEAD of the Azhar Islamic University Sheikh Jad Al Haq yesterday called upon inactive Arab governments and Muslim quarters to rise to the level of the ongoing popular uprising in occupied Palestine.

In an interview with a Kuwaiti newspaper, the leading Muslim scholar said those (Arab governments) who are "lying back motionless" should be motivated by the popular upheaval into working seriously for uniting ranks and purpose.

He emphasised the importance of extending support to the Palestinian revolt and prodded Arabs and Muslims to back those struggling to regain their

usurped lands.

On the Gulf war, Sheikh Jad Al Haq, who wields considerable authority over Muslims the world over, called on Iran to accept peace calls and settle its conflict with Muslim Iraq.

He said Muslim blood should be spared, adding that Israel and its allies supply Iran with weapons to add fuel to the war and weaken Muslim ranks.

On the problem of drugs and alcoholism, the Azhar's head said Islam forbids everything that harms the human body and added that governments should fight the spread of "poison," so that "our youths will be protected."

Jordanian medal for Kuwait envoy

AMMAN, Feb 16, (Kuna): A medal of Independence of the First Degree was offered today to Kuwaiti Ambassador here Ibrahim Jassem Al Baho on the occasion of the end of his mission and as an appreciation to his efforts in developing relations between Kuwait and Jordan in all fields.

In a farewell party attended by senior officials at the foreign affairs ministry and heads of the diplomatic missions to Jordan, Foreign Affairs Minister Taher Masri presented the medal to the Kuwaiti ambassador.

Experts approve steps to fight oil pollution

EXPERTS from eight Gulf states including warring Iran and Iraq approved measures to fight offshore sources of oil pollution at a three-day meeting that ended on Monday.

A statement yesterday by the Regional Organisation for the Protection of the Marine Environment (Ropme) said the experts had reached agreement on a draft protocol covering pollution from oil exploration and exploitation in the Gulf.

The draft has been under discussion for three years and must now be approved by health and

environment ministers of the eight states — Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Iran and Iraq.

The statement said the draft set forth standards that must be adopted by states of the region on the environmental consequences of exploration of the continental shelf, including drilling operations and use of chemicals in this field.

The protocol will complement an existing one that deals with onshore sources of marine pollution.

Zakat House financial aid

THE acting director of Kuwait's Zakat House Abdul Aziz Al Buzai said KD896,000 had been given in monthly support to 1,170 needy families in Kuwait and KD1,276 million had been given to 5,549 families on an irregular basis during 1987.

He added that 103 families received interest free loans totalling KD145,000 and 204 families received Student Fund benefits from the house. In addition to these donations, the Zakat House also organised the sponsorship of 13,400 orphans by 9,000 persons in Kuwait, he said, adding that about KD1.4 million was given in support of these orphans last year. He added that the children are from 22 Arab and Islamic countries.

Other contributions included KD132,000 donated to 22 local societies and KD120,000 to 19 local Zakat committees, he said. In 1987, 21,500 persons received

donations during Eid Al Fitr and 11,700 during Eid Al Adha. Zakat House also covered the expenses of 44 Muslims who performed Haj last year, he added.

Al Buzai said the Zakat House had supported 231 Islamic societies and organisations outside of Kuwait during 1987 at a cost of KD391,000 and had supervised 242 different projects outside of the country, 52 of which were completed last year.

These projects, costing about KD568,000, included the construction of mosques, schools, health centres, hospitals, orphanages and digging wells, he said.

The house also established a fund to support 134 African students studying at Al Azhar University in Cairo and cooperates with Kuwait Interior Ministry in supporting families of prisoners.

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OIC ministerial council to meet in Amman

ABU DHABI, Feb 16, (Kuna): Foreign ministers from the 46-member Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) will meet in Amman, Jordan, March 21 to 25 for talks on issues ranging from the situation in the Middle East and the rights of Muslims in the Philippines.

The OIC's 17th conference, however, attracts special attention this time as it is being held only 50 miles east of the holy city of Jerusalem and few miles away from the Israeli-occupied territories, where a major uprising since Dec 9 has already left at least 56 Palestinians killed and hundreds others wounded by enemy gunfire and beatings.

Diplomatic sources expected the four-day gathering to pledge continued support for the Palestinian people under their legitimate representative, the PLO, until they regain their rights to self-determination, including the right to statehood.

The sources noted that almost at all OIC gatherings, including the Fifth Summit Conference, which was held in Kuwait in Jan 1987, the Palestinian cause has been considered as Islam's foremost issue.

Foreign ministers, representing over one billion Muslims in 46 countries will reaffirm their previous calls for the Liberation of the holy city of Jerusalem from 20 years of repressive Zionist rule, the sources said.

Report They said the conference will discuss the financial situation on a special "Jerusalem Fund" that has been established by the OIC to help the Palestinian inhabitants to resist Israeli occupation, Judaization and settlement on Arab lands.

The latest developments of the seven-year-old war between two Muslim members — Iraq and Iran, will also be high on the conference's agenda, the sources said.

They expected the ministers to renew their call for a peaceful settlement of the conflict that has also affected other non-belligerent states.

OIC Secretary General Sherifuddin Pirzadeh of Pakistan is expected to present a report to the ministers on various issues plaguing the Muslim world.

The sources said the ministers would labour through some 78 points on their agenda that also include other important topics, such as the strategic alliance between United States and Israel, Israel's nuclear capabilities, Israel's continued aggression on Lebanon, the resumption of diplomatic relations with the Zionist enemy by certain Islamic states, cooperation with African states and other economic, cultural and political issues.

The agenda also stressed the importance of enhancing relations between the Jeddah-based OIC and various regional and international organisations.



● Kuwait's Information Minister, Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Sabah (third left), and members of the preparatory committee for National Day celebrations (picture above) watch schoolchildren rehearsing a musical play which will be performed during the National Day celebrations (picture below).



Ministers tour experimental farm

THREE ministers yesterday visited the agricultural research experiments station located in Chabud area, at the invitation of Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and chairman of the board of trustees of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) Rashed Al Rashid.

The Ministers of Planning, Abdul Rahman Al Awadi; Justice and Legal Affairs, Dhari Al Othman and Minister of State for Services Affairs, Issa Al Mazzei, got acquainted with the scientific activities at the research station.

The ministers were accompanied by director general of the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fisheries, Sheikh Ibrahim Al Duaij, Director General of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science (Kfas) Ali Al Shamlan and KISR's acting Director General Mohammed Al Asfour.

KISR officials gave a brief explanation on the nature of work on the 20-square kilometres station, which aim at upgrading pastures in Kuwait's various areas.

area designed to plant wheat, as well as the irrigated grasslands, through which the institute targets producing feed at times when fodder is rare.

Minister Al Rashid emphasised the importance of preserving the desert environment to confront the problem of desertification.

He also called for implementing a comprehensive programme of afforestation, through a joint effort between the public authority for agricultural affairs and fisheries and KISR to produce palm trees.



The three ministers and officials, look at a plant.



● HH the Amir yesterday received the Ambassador of Denmark (second left) and the Ambassador to Tunisia (left) for the presentation of their credentials.

Kuwait will confront any aggression: Nawaf

DEFENCE Minister, Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed has said that Kuwaitis will fiercely confront any aggression no matter how powerful it is.

Sheikh Nawaf, in an interview with a Kuwaiti magazine to be published Friday, described the Kuwaiti Army as "the nation's sword", recalling the many Kuwaiti soldiers who sacrificed their lives during Arab-Israeli wars.

He hailed the current uprising in the occupied territories, and brought back to mind words of HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Jaber that the Palestinian upheaval stems from rejecting repression and occupation, which is, according to the Amir, a natural Arab trait, represented by refusing to bow and surrender.

Sheikh Nawaf added that the uprising in occupied Palestine goes to prove beyond the shadow

of a doubt that an occupation, no matter how long it lasts, will disappear someday.

He noted that Kuwait views the Iraq-Iran war as a war which is taking place at the wrong place and between the wrong parties, describing it as "self-suicide" and serves the interest of enemies of Arabs and Muslims.

On an Arab strategy to face challenges, Sheikh Nawaf said that in order to win any wars, Arabs have to unify their ranks, underlining, "this nation should achieve any victory on any enemy no matter how small or weak while it was fragmented and dominated by disputes."

Replying to a question on having multi-sources for weapons, he said that Kuwait possesses arms from the East and West, stressing that weapons serve as a warning to those who intend to infringe on the security of this country.

Walkathon cancellation disappoints people

By Jadranka Porter

MORE than 20 commercial companies and hundreds of Kuwaitis and expatriates who were planning to take part in Kuwait's first "Walk for a Cause" were yesterday left disappointed when the event was cancelled for security reasons.

A spokeswoman for the Sultan Center, the initiators of the event, said the Ministry of Interior which originally gave its approval went back on its word. She added: "The event is definitely off." The aim of the sponsored walk, dubbed as "walkathon," was to raise money for

the Social Welfare Society. The target figure was KD100,000.

Jamil Sultan told a news conference recently that the event was also meant to educate people and companies about their responsibility to the community they live in. He hoped the walk would help change the public perception of commercial companies as merely profit-hungry set-ups with little, if any, concern for community causes. The walkathon, which was to take place on Feb 19, was designed to promote a carnival atmosphere in preparation for Kuwait's National Day celebration on Feb 25.

None will be allowed to disrupt Kuwait's security

INTERIOR Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah has said that the security forces were ready to face and confront all those who might attempt to disrupt Kuwait's security and its internal front.

In an interview with a Kuwaiti magazine, Sheikh Salem stressed that Kuwait will confront all conspiracies being hatched against it through explosions at vital installations such as oil.

He said that security men were always ready to face all these conspiracies that were trying to drag Kuwait into the war.

He said his appointment as the Interior Minister was a great responsibility, and he would carry it honestly to achieve security for Kuwaitis as well as Arab and foreign expatriates.

Jahra Governorate Week

EXEMPLARY Governorate Week began in Jahra on Monday, organised by the Environmental Protection Council, under the auspices of the Governor of Jahra Sheikh Salem Al Sabah Al Nasser. The opening ceremony was attended by the council's Secretary General Ibrahim Mohammad Hadi, on behalf of the Planning Minister and chairman of the council Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi.

In his opening speech, Mohammad Hadi, stressed the significance of efforts exerted by citizens and residents of the governorate in protecting the environment.

He said that the Jahra Governorate was selected to launch Exemplary Governorate Week because of its unique recreational potential and because it had been selected as the site of the Kuwait National Park which is to be established.

UNDP to carry out agriculture scheme in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Feb 16, (Opecna): A computerised system for upgrading agricultural planning and project analysis is to be introduced in Iraq under an accord signed here between the Iraqi Planning Ministry and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The scheme, being sponsored by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), will help in improving the efficiency of state enterprises engaged in agricultural planning and data analysis to achieve higher levels of economic management.

A source at the Planning ministry said the project, set for completion later this year, would be supplementary to its twin scheme initiated last November to help improve the analytical capabilities of agriculture personnel through computerisation.

This is one of 17 schemes being carried out by the UNDP in the Iraqi agricultural sector.

Two killed in road accidents

A WOMAN and a man died and two other men were injured in traffic accidents yesterday.

The woman died after being knocked down by a speeding car. The man died when two cars collided head-on in Daher area.

There were 21 traffic accidents in Kuwait yesterday.

One took place in Hawalli, four in the capital, four in Jahra and 12 in Ahmadi.

Cultural function

THE Bangladesh Association will hold a cultural function to mark Shaheed Day on Feb 26 at 6 pm at the Bangladesh Embassy premises at Jahriya.

All Bangladeshis are invited.

KUWAIT PRESS DIGEST

Amiri audience

HH the Amir received yesterday HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Soud Al Abdullah Al Sabah.

Crown Prince audiences

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Sheikh Soud Al Abdullah yesterday received the Minister of the Amin Diwan, Sheikh Khalid Al Ahmad, the Minister of Defence, Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed, the Minister of Public Works, Abdul Rahman Al Houti.

Sheikh Soud also received the Governor of Hawalli, Sheikh Salman Al Hmoud Al Sabah; the Governor of the Central Bank, Sheikh Saleh Abdul Aziz Al Sabah; and Kuwait's Ambassador to Bahrain Ahmad Al Mubarki.

GULF PRESS

Call for retaliatory Arab commando attacks

ARAB Gulf newspaper editorials strongly suggested yesterday forceful reprisal Arab commando attacks against the Zionist entity to check the current state of subversive and criminal Israeli onslaught on the Palestinian revolution inside and outside occupied Palestine.

"Zionist crimes will persist until we decide to launch some heroic acts in retaliation for the Israeli attempt to bury three Palestinian youths olive in the West Bank, the assassination of three Palestinian military leaders in Limassol and the bombing of the Ship of Return," said the Qatari daily Al Rayat.

The paper warned that the US Secretary of State George Shultz's trip to the Middle East region "as part of plots" to abort the Palestinian uprising.

The daily Al Sharq, meanwhile, said the entire world has stood witness to the sordid Israeli deeds that have unveiled the real nature of the Zionist entity.

"The Israeli bombing of Ship of Return is a fresh indication of the true nature of this entity and its leaders, who, insist on putting on a graceful face, but are in fact nothing but terrorist gangs," Al Sharq went on.

In Saudi Arabia, newspaper comments were also sharply critical of the Israeli terrorist operations. The daily Al Nadwa pointed out that the scale of Israeli crimes mirrored the worsening orderly of Israeli leaders.

The newspaper Al Youm noted that the twin Israeli attacks on Palestinian targets in Cyprus are strong evidence that the Zionist entity is accustomed to violating the national sovereignty of other states. In total disregard of international conventions.

Another paper, Okaz, asserted that the snowballing Palestinian upheaval is bound to enhance its international stature despite the wanton Israeli savagery.

The daily Al Riyadh said the current uprising has plunged the Zionist entity into a big quagmire, and it added that only American and European measures could force Tel Aviv to yield to Arab and international peace calls.

Al Iftihad newspaper of Abu Dhabi said "in less than 24-hours, the Israeli enemy made two counter moves against the heroic uprising in occupied territories."

The first move was the murder of 3 Palestinian leaders and the second the mine blast on the Ship of Return.

The newspaper added "the counter Israeli move is proof that there is a crisis in the Zionist entity, a crisis in occupied territories where the uprising is escalating despite the brutality of the Zionist repression and a crisis outside where world public opinion for the first time is against the occupation forces' practices in occupied lands."

The newspaper warned "the Zionist enemy will not hesitate to commit fresh crimes in its filthy war against the Palestinian people."

The Dubai-based newspaper Al Bayan said "the two crimes committed by the Mossad on Cypriot soil is a flagrant Israeli violation of the sovereignty of Cyprus and international law."

"They were not unusual, coming from the Israeli terrorism factory which abuses world society with the blessing of the superpower."

The newspaper said "Israel insists on practising the law of the jungle. What was committed by the Mossad is actual terrorism and could not be considered a defensive blow because it was executed in a non-Arab state against a ship which would have sailed on a voyage of peace."

The English language daily Khaleej Times in an editorial said the sabotage of the Ship of Return underscores "the increasing nervousness as well as the growing perversion of the Zionist authorities."

Sharhan opens Juleeb Shiyook telecom centre

JULEEB Al Shiyook centre for Telecommunication and postal services was inaugurated yesterday by Minister of Communications, Abdullah Al Sharhan.

Upon arrival at the centre, the minister was received by Communications Undersecretary, Abdel Aziz Al Ayoub and top officials at the ministry as well as the city's prominent figures.

The officials toured the building inspecting the main hall, the post office, overseas lines' cabinets as well as other divisions.

The minister said that the Ministry of Communications seeks to import the best equipments to facilitate the public service.



Kuwait's Communications Minister, Abdullah Al Sharhan, (above) cuts the ribbon to open the telecommunication centre at Juleeb Al Shiyook. Bottom picture shows part of the automatic sorting equipment at the centre.

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VIDEO CORNER

Vampire preys on male virgins

By Gail Seery

IT'S a natural human trait to show a great deal of interest in the strange and horrific (why else would anybody ever watch Weekend?), and also to laugh at the frightening. This urge is behind many of the spoof horror films of recent years. It all started with the Abbott & Costello Meet Frankenstein type films, and has continued ever since.

We've made Mel Brook's Young Frankenstein, with Gene Wilder and the very funny Marty Feldman, and Love at First Bite starring George Hamilton as a Blood Bank robbing vampire, forced to America when the communist peasants on his estate throw him off, denouncing him as a capitalist bloodsucker.

Once Bitten is a comedy very much in the same vein (sorry), also set in America, or to be more precise in California, where the strange life style of the vampires isn't in any way unusual — if anything it's a little more staid than the lives of those around them.

The Countess, played immaculately by the generally revealingly clad Laura Hutton is a spot of trouble. Although she is around 400 years old. Nevertheless she is also very beautiful, and she would like to stay that way. She sleeps in her white coffin wearing a leotard, and gets straight on her exercise bicycle when woken in the evening by Sebastian, her butler/chauffeur/procurer.

Her problem? In order to retain her looks she must drink

the blood of a male virgin three times before All Hallows Eve. You see the problem? According to the screenwriter, California is not noted for its male virgins — later in the film it is suggested she might do better to try Kansas or Nebraska.

Mark, her chosen victim is a college student, who has been dating the same girl, with little result, for four years. He and his friends are obsessed with the need to lose the trait that makes him interesting to the countess. Ooe, Russ, has the most ridiculous chat-up line I've ever heard. "I'm Russ and I'm a Sagittarius. I enjoy surfing, candlelit dinners and Tolstoy. I'm a mature person and you're a mature person."

The story has a happy ending, but not alas, for the Countess. Mark is played by Jim Carey, and the film, directed by Sam Goldwyn Jr, is carefully thought out and pleasingly presented. There is also some very nice choreography, when the Countess tries to bite Mark at the school dance.

Rather more dated is Dance of the Vampires starring Roman Polanski and Sharon Tate. Here we have a Professor Abronsius looking for a vampire. "Is there a castle in the neighbourhood?" He asks the locals. We then find a mass of fairly nasty vampires, including a presumably Jewish one and a "sensitive young boy" vampire, played by Alfie Bass. Although it's closer to the traditional Count Dracula type films, it's incomprehensible and rather lame most of the time. It's out there mainly because the bad guys win for once.

WHAT'S ON

CINEMA

Films and the Law

The American film festival, Films and the Law, concludes tonight with the feature film The Best Man; (1964); director: Franklin Schaffner; starring: Cliff Robertson, Henry Fonda, Lee Remick. Based on Gore Vidal's perspective and quite polemic play, it deals with the hot-and-heavy fight between two leading contenders of the Presidential nomination of their party. One of the best American movies about politics. Duration: 102 minutes.

It will be shown at 7.30 pm prompt at the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry auditorium. Children not allowed inside the auditorium. The festival has been organised by the American Embassy in Kuwait in tandem with Kuwait Cine Club.

SOCIAL

Sur Sangeet Group

A variety show, featuring Hindi, Punjabi, Urdu songs, ghazals and dances, will be held on Feb 19, 6 pm, at the Ramada Al Salam Hotel.

Ladies Tea Party

The International Ladies Tea Party will hold a fancy dress competition at their next meeting on March 2 at the Kuwait Plaza hotel. A karate expert will give a self-defence demonstration. For participating contact 5317390 or 5386297.

Music Concert '88

Adeeb, Lynley (vocals), Ammar (guitar/vocals), Aasim (keyboards/synthesizer), Murtaza (bass guitar) and Raza (drums) will participate in the Music Concert '88, due to be held on Feb 19 at Al Andalus Cinema. They will present a variety of songs, originally sung by such groups as Duran Duran, Europe, Bonjovi and others. Tickets available at Al Andalus box office. For details contact 5618482 or 3983165 (Adeeb).

Kuwait Irish Society

St Patrick's Day celebration on March 17 at the Holiday Inn Hotel. If interested contact — 5621701/5622701, 8 am to 2 pm or 5624175 after 2 pm.

Martyr's Day

Bangladeshis will hold a meeting and print a booklet to mark the Martyr's Day. Badesik, the Bangladesh Diploma Engineers Society, will hold a discussion on the "Bengali Language Day" on Friday, Feb 26, from 3 pm at the home of Shafiqullah Dewan, Abbasia.

The Bandhan Nattya Chakra will publish a booklet and are inviting Bangladeshis to submit articles, not more than 750 words, poems, 100 words, or short stories. They must be submitted before Feb 17.

Kuwait Welsh Society

St David's Day Annual Dinner will be held at Messiah Beach Hotel on Tuesday, March 1. This year's entertainment is to be provided by Doreeb Lewis, a country and folk singer who has just completed recording her fourth LP album. For reservations phone 5615332; 3912384; 3940743 ext 231.

Kuwait Nomads

Quiz Night: The Kuwait Nomads Rugby Club will hold "Quiz Night" on Feb 17. Teams of four, must include one lady. For details and team registration contact Jon Evans (5339867) or Tony Sole (5330507) by Monday, Feb 15.

THEATRE

KLT

Kuwait Little Theatre (KLT), Ahmadi, will hold auditions for the summer musical at its premises at 7.30 pm on Feb 19. Backstage helpers also needed. For further details contact 3985246 after 3 pm.

Kuwait Players

"Do Not Disturb", an adult comedy written by Michael Pertwee will be performed at 8 pm on Feb 22, 23, 24 and 25 at the Universal American School. For reservations ring 5613465; 5745838; 5618244. Tickets will also be available at the door.

ARTS

Sultan Gallery

"Kuwait: Studies in Water-colour" is the theme of a paintings exhibition by American artist Kathleen Stafford at the Sultan Gallery, 9 am to 1 pm and 5 to 8 pm, (except Friday) for two weeks. The gallery is located near the Rolls Royce showroom, Al Soor St.

Dahiyat Abdullah

A painting exhibition will be held at the gallery from Feb 17. It will be open from 9 am to 12 noon and 4 to 8 pm.

SPORTS

Boys Own Club

The third seven-a-side football tournament takes place on Feb 19 at Al Soor Grounds. Draw will be held at 7 am and the first game begins at 7.30 am. All teams wishing to participate contact Joe D'Souza — Tel: 4813622/25 ext. 147.

Rafit Race

Rafit Race 1988; entry forms and rules are now available from the Messiah Beach Hotel. First captain's meeting at MBH, Al Foz Suite, on March 1, 6.30 pm. For further details contact the hotel, ext. 712/751/705.

Filipino Non-Pro

Bowling League

This week's matches are on Thursday (Feb 18), 6 pm to 8 pm; between Pasay City and Paranaque and on Friday, Feb 19, mornings between Marikina vs Paranaque and Makati vs. Malabon and in the afternoon between Manila vs. Mandaluyong; Navitas vs. Valenzuela; Las Pinas vs. Pasig. All matches will be held at the Club 300.

Entangled in a legal web

By Shaun Seekins

SUSPECT is an intellectually engrossing, well crafted thriller that traces its lineage as far back as Witness for the Prosecution, but unlike many films of the genre, Peter Yates stands up equally well as a penetrating character study of two people caught up in social forces beyond their control.

Cher is cast as Kathleen Riley, a frustrated, overworked public defender in Washington D.C. who is chosen to represent a deaf mute transient (Tiam Neeson) accused of murdering a Justice Department employee. The transient, an embittered Vietnam veteran appears to be a textbook case, possessing all the anti-social characteristics necessary to commit a murder. But Riley gradually becomes convinced that there is another side to the story.

So does one of the jurors (Dennis Quaid), a glib, conniving lobbyist and con-man himself who can spot a scam when he sees one. He senses that Riley is confronting a stacked deck and is just too honest to see the facts. What begins as casual poking around results in whispered clues to the public defender and escalates into a full scale investigation which could get Riley disbarred.

Yates has to blur some of the plot details in order to make all of this work convincingly and establish the twists and turns necessary to set up the suspenseful climax.

Still, the viewer has little time to dwell on any inconsistencies as taut direction and convincing performances by his cast (particularly the ever improving Quaid) push the film along at a cracking pace. Quaid and Cher's popularity should ensure the film's success, especially here, where, unfortunately, the choice of big 1988 theatrical films looks as though it will be limited.

China Girl could be compared to a 1988 version of East Side Story, where the Hispanics have been replaced by Chinese and the locale switched to Canal Street, which borders Little Italy and Chinatown.



Richard Panabianco and Sari Chang in China Girl.

The respective Godfathers of the two communities, Perito (Robert Miano) and Gung-Tu (Joey Chin), want peace and quiet. Their young pretenders, Yung-Gao (Russell Woog), and particularly his cousin Tzu-Chin (Joey Chin) and their opposite number Alby Moote (James Russo) are, for such tender years, much deeper set in their respective racism and would prefer a terminal punch-up.

Despite such a dangerous backdrop, Tony (Richard Panabianco), Alby's younger brother, becomes seriously involved with Tzu-Chin (Sari Chang), Yang's sister.

The implication of this cross culture liaison are devastating. It provides the excuse for their contemporaries to get excessively tough and their elders to become even tougher, as all out war threatens to engulf Canal Street.

The body count is graphically high, as Tony and Tzu-Chin are finally sacrificed, band in hand, to the mindless mayhem.

Though purporting to condemn racist attitudes, the film inevitably tends to re-inforce prejudices, so that one could readily imagine Italians and Chinese actually yelling their own sides on as the violence flares up. Undoubtedly set for a long video shelf life.

No Man's Land is another exciting thriller starring

Charlie Sheen playing the boss of a gang of very organised car thieves who specialise in stealing only the latest Porsches. A rookie cop is sent undercover to work as a mechanic in a garage owned by Sheen as the Captain of Detectives is convinced that the cars are broken down for resale to a secret location. However, the young cop quickly comes under the influence of Sheen and has great difficulty deciding exactly where his loyalty lies.

Other release include Mr Roberts starring Henry Fonda and James Cagney, a classic from Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. The Gay Divorce (a pre-war film when gay meant something completely different); Eye on the Sparrow starring Keith Carradine. For children Thundercats the Movie, Scabert and The Kid who Knew too Much. British (Australian?) comedy with Dame Edna Everage and the Russ Abbott show are also available.

The above films are by courtesy of Video Nauf (2432808); Video Club (5724372) and VFI, Safeway, Farwani.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 2.15 Holy Quran
- 2.30 World News Via Satellite
- 3.30 Ibtal Al Mu'laeb: cartoons
- 4.00 News Summary
- 4.05 World News via Satellite
- 4.25 Gbuuyom: Bila Malar: historical serial, starring Mahmoud Abu Ghareeb, Abeer Essa, Rashida Dajani.
- 5.15 Bain Al Ams Wa Al Youm: Between Yesterday and Today. A look at communication systems.
- 6.00 Songs
- 7.00 News Summary
- 7.05 With Students: hosted by Essa Rushoud
- 7.45 Folklore: presented by Mohammad Mutairi
- 8.15 Good Evening and Local News
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.50 Rabeeb Fi Al Aasif: last episode, starring Mustafa Fahmi, Hina Tharwath, Ahsan Qalawi, Hussein Sharbini.
- 10.50 Songs, Music and Dance: a variety show featuring top performers from the Arab World.
- 12.15 News Summary
- 12.25 World News via Satellite
- 1.45 Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

- 3.30 Holy Quran
- 3.40 The Get Along Gang: cartoons
- 4.00 Football: closing ceremony of the second GCC Airlines



The good, the bad and the bitchy in Falcon Crest, tonight at 10.30 pm.

Football tournament. Live from Kazema Sports Club

6.30 Micro at Work: "Is There A Place For Me?" Computers have boosted tourism by providing quick access to information in countries around the world. This episode examines the use of computers of making hotel and airline bookings.

6.50 The Living Isles: "Out of the Flames." A look at the life in the beaches and moorlands in Britain.

7.30 Growing Pains: "Career Decision." Maggie's career plans backfire when she encounters opposition at work.

8.00 News in English

8.40 Buck James: Dennis Weaver plays a doctor who performs best in life and death situations

9.30 The World of Strange Power: "An Element

of the Divine". A look at the power of some men and women who flood minerals and water by using unconventional tools, like twigs.

10.00 Perfect Strangers: "Can I Get A Witness?" Balki who is being blackmailed doesn't give in to threats and calls in the police.

10.30 Falcon Crest: "Dead End." In this episode, Lance is in trouble: Angela's resolve to take revenge acquires new dimensions: and Emma is arrested for harbouring prostitutes.

12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown.

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

FROM the sublime to the ridiculous there is only one step — Napoleon Bonaparte, French general-statesman (1769-1821).

Political debate raging in Iran

By Claude van England

BRUSSELS: The normally active political debate in Iran's ruling circles is growing even more vociferous as general elections draw near.

One subject of controversy is how much political freedom to grant candidates and parties during the campaign for April's election.

But in addition to settling this basic issue, say Western diplomats observing the debate in Tehran, the outcome could determine the credibility of Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri as designated successor to the nation's "supreme leader," Ayatollah Khomeini.

Montazeri has insisted that several political parties should be allowed to exist and field candidates for elections to the Majlis, Iran's 270-seat legislative body. A source close to Montazeri says the cleric is keen on having the Liberation Movement of Iran, led by former Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan, take part in the election campaign. Dr. Bazargan opposes continuing the 7 1/2-year war against Iraq. He is also known to support restoring political and economic ties with the U.S.

Reason

Montazeri, on the other hand, has long been known for his anti-American views and opposition to any compromise with the present Iraqi regime of Saddam Hussein. In fact, in a speech Nov. 29, Montazeri's insistence on opening up the system to those such as Bazargan took Western observers in Tehran somewhat by surprise.

The reason behind Montazeri's stance, according to an Iranian journalist contacted in Tehran, is that liberalised politics could provide a safety valve. Montazeri, this source says, believes that the best way to ensure the survival of the current Islamic regime is to open the system, allowing a modicum of dissent to be expressed in public.

However, Iran's minister of the interior (who is in charge of organising the elections) apparently disagrees. Hojatoleslam Ali Akbar Mohtashami has announced that only independent candidates would be allowed to run and that no

national political party would be authorised to take part in the campaign. Mohtashami said this was because the commission set up 1982 to legalise political parties hasn't yet completed its work.

Iranian exile sources say that without political parties, it will be almost impossible for the masses of poorly educated Iranians to understand the political bent of each individual candidate. Mohtashami's system, they charge, will favour the re-election of candidates who are already in office and thus more widely known. Bazargan and his allies have already announced a boycott of the election if they are not allowed to organise their party nationwide.

Khomeini, Prime Minister Hossein Musavi, and Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani have so far not intervened in the debate. Western observers in Tehran say that if Montazeri's view doesn't eventually win the day, it will be a clear sign of his political weakness.

Reappear

Paradoxically the conflict between Montazeri and Mohtashami comes at a time when Montazeri appears to have staged a successful political comeback. Montazeri's position had been weakened in the aftermath of the US-arms-to-Iran affair.

Last Sept 28, Mehdi Hashemi — the brother of Montazeri's son-in-law — was executed after being convicted of a series of crimes. Hashemi was a close associate of Montazeri and was widely believed by Western intelligence services to direct Lebanon's Islamic Jihad, a group that still holds several foreign hostages. Hashemi's arrest in late 1986 had been widely seen as part of a secret deal between Iran and the U.S.

In the months following the November 1986 revelations of the Iran-Contra affair, Montazeri maintained a discreetly low profile. Only in recent weeks, has he reappeared on Iranian TV and radio, reportedly after Khomeini himself ordered that Montazeri's speeches be aired without any editing. And since then, Iranian leaders have publicly reaffirmed that Montazeri is Khomeini's successor.

The Christian Science Monitor.

The trick that works only once

By Linda Feldmann

WASHINGTON: It's a great trick, but you can do it only once. That well-worn maxim is hitting home to many private relief organisations, struggling to inspire Americans to send money for Ethiopia's latest famine.

The "trick" was the dramatic television footage of starving Ethiopians that shocked Americans on Oct. 23, 1984, and galvanised an unprecedented outpouring of concern and cash. Now there's another drought, threatening 5 to 7 million people. The news media have covered it, but only sporadically. Some Americans aren't getting the message. And many who are, aren't responding.

Save the Children, for example, needs \$2 million for its Ethiopian relief efforts for Jan 1 to July 1. By the end of December, it had raised only \$83,000, an encouraging jump but still low. "By and large, last time's people were one-time givers," says Betty Woodward, spokesperson for Save the Children. "They responded emotionally to the famine. They needed something visceral to push them to respond."

Sabotage

Officials from private relief organisations cite other reasons for resistance to giving.

● The "I thought we fixed it last time" attitude among some Americans. What many Americans don't understand, officials say, is that this is a new drought and that it came unusually soon after the last one. Many of the long-term development projects under way that will eventually help make some areas famine-resistant are not far enough along.

● Rebel sabotage of aid. At least two full convoys have been attacked since last fall. The answer, say relief officials, is to

replace the trucks and carry on, not give up. As for the Ethiopian government, relief agencies report a high degree of cooperation in delivering aid.

● Bad publicity during the 1984-85 famine. Reports about food rotting on the docks in Ethiopia were true, but blown out of proportion, officials say. Several relief agencies, as well as the United States Agency for International Development, say they have documentation to show that 99 per cent of relief aid reached its final destination. Also disputed were the damaging allegations from Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders, a French medical-relief agency) and other relief outfits that more Ethiopians were dying from government resettlement policies than from the famine.

● The media. Because little time has passed since the last famine, the news isn't as "new" as it could be, and the level of interest isn't as great as in 1984-85. The pictures are also not as dramatic. Because of the early-warnings systems put in place after the last drought, public and private relief agencies jumped into action when the first signs of trouble appeared last summer. So far, there are no camps, no scenes of mass death, though agencies stress the situation could get much worse.

Coverage

Organisations also urge media coverage of long-term development and the gains made since the last famine: the new trees and ponds, the education programmes for girls that boost infant survival rates, the new types of seeds being used.

● Concerns closer to home. Homelessness and domestic poverty have grown as issues in America over the past few years, and many Americans cite the need to "take care of our own."

The Christian Science Monitor.

Breaches of election laws occur regularly

Unwieldy US presidential campaigns

By Scott Armstrong, and Cheryl Sullivan

LOS ANGELES: Presidential campaigns have become so vast and unwieldy, kneading together hundreds of aides and tens of thousands of volunteers almost overnight, that it is virtually impossible to maintain tight control. As a result, political experts say breaches of federal election laws and rule-bending occur almost daily.

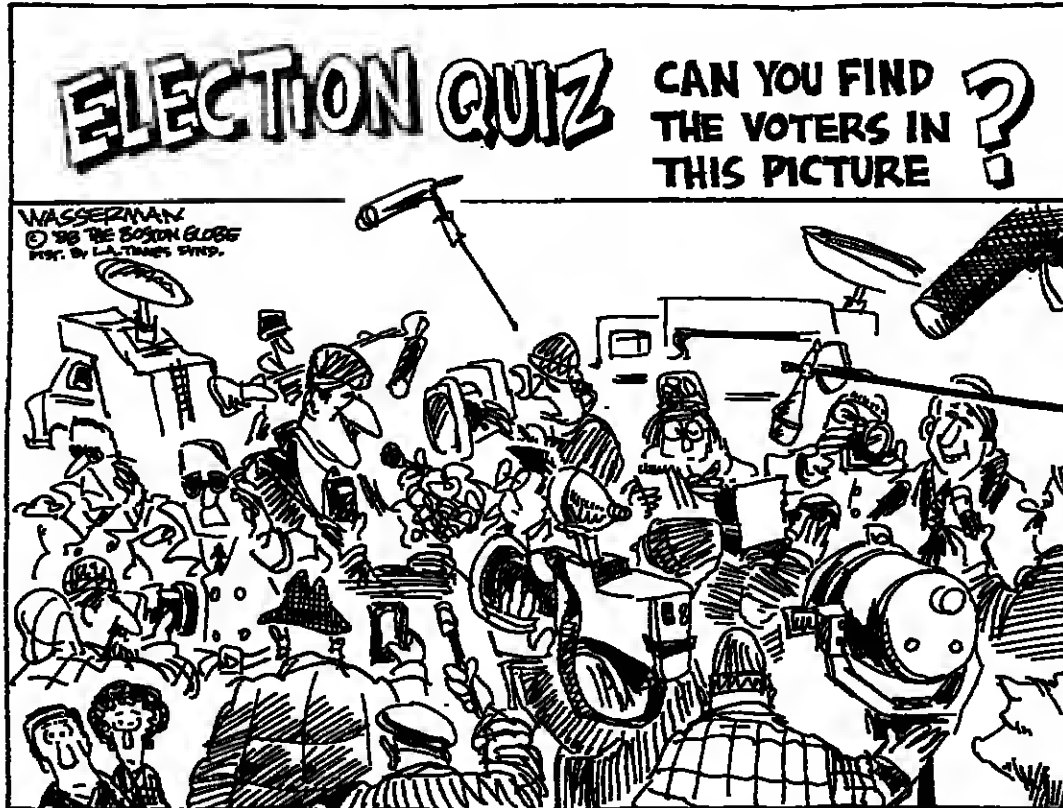
"Violations are very common," says Jules Glazer, a political accountant who is treasurer of the Rev. Jesse Jackson's campaign in California. "They are in every campaign."

Despite this, politicking is considered far cleaner today than during the pre-Watergate days of the early 1970s.

"You're talking about a major organisational effort — one bigger than most corporations in America," says Robert Becker, a political strategist who managed Walter Mondale's 1984 campaign.

Controlling a campaign has surfaced as an issue in the wake of recent reports of violations by several presidential aspirants. Perhaps most serious have been the allegations of financial irregularities by Gary Hart's campaign in 1984 and again this election cycle. The Hart camp is accused of receiving private donations from a California businessman well in excess of the \$1,000 limit placed on individual contributions.

GOP hopefuls Robert Dole and Pierre du Pont discovered last month that a political consulting firm they had hired forged voter signatures needed to qualify the candidates for the Texas ballot. Republican contender Pat Robertson, meanwhile, is being investigated by the Federal Election Commission



(FEC) for possible spending violations involving a leased computer system.

Byproduct

Such infractions are partly the byproduct of today's Byzantine nominating and general-election process, experts say. In the old days, when presidential candidates were chosen by the party elite, campaigns were compact and accountability more easily defined. But the modern system of mass primaries has put a premium on grassroots organising, fund raising, and the hiring of scores of political professionals.

As the dimensions of the task have grown, management and

control have become more difficult. A winning campaign this year is likely to spend upwards of \$75 million (including federal matching funds), employ 2,000 workers, and include a network of hundreds of thousands of volunteers in 50 states. It will employ as many lawyers and accountants as a large corporation (the Reagan campaign spent \$2.5 million on these services in 1980), and each month it will file finance reports to the FEC as thick as a Manhattan phone book. Add to this the complexity of today's election laws and, analysts say, you have the recipe for inevitable infractions.

"It would be very hard to have

a major organisation today that didn't violate at least the spirit of the law if not more than that," says Stephen Hess, a presidential scholar at the Brookings Institution.

Although improprieties can taint a candidate, a presidential aspirant cannot be expected to know all details of the campaign. "You have to hand off big pieces of these campaigns," says Becker.

The best the candidate can do is set the moral tone, hire the best people possible, and hold them accountable.

"Just as you wouldn't expect the chairman of General Motors to know everything that's going

on at the plant in Fresno, Calif., you can't expect a candidate to know what's going on at his campaign in Fresno," says Joe Cerrell, a California-based political consultant.

Campaign finance, involving detailed federal reporting requirements and the raising of vast sums, presents the biggest potential pitfall. Spending in this presidential-election cycle is expected to top \$450 million, up from \$325 million in 1984.

Financial feasts or famines each present their own accounting problems. In the early days of the 1984 Hart campaign, for instance, when the candidate was bouncing along in relative obscurity, some 3,000 cheques a month, or about \$250,000, were trickling into the candidate's coffers. In the month after his win in the New Hampshire primary, the cheque flow swelled to 48,000 cheques worth \$3.5 million.

"There is a station-wagon, moving-van kind of atmosphere about these things," says Michael Moore, Hart's national treasurer in 1984 and 1987.

While wilful and systematic violations of campaign-finance laws do occur, most errors are unintentional, experts say. They identify at least three federal regulations for which compliance is difficult to monitor and enforce:

● In-kind contributions. Goods and services, like cash contributions, must be reported to the FEC. This means calculating the value of items such as a private jet used to transport the candidate to campaign stops and the use of a donated computer.

Part of the problem is simply determining the value. Yet analysts say this area is also ripe for abuse, intentional or otherwise. There are plenty of gray areas: one of the recent allegations against Hart is that Stuart

Karl, the California businessman, paid a monthly salary of \$3,000 to Dennis Walto, a campaign aide, for work in Hart's 1988 organisation, which would be illegal. But Hart aides have said they believe Karl paid Walto for work in his company not for his efforts on the hustings.

Difficult

● Double contributions. Although individuals are limited to giving \$1,000 to a campaign, they can skirt this by having employees or relatives give money and then reimbursing them for it.

Campaign officials say this is tough to monitor. The best they can do is encourage people not to do it, carry out spot checks, and watch for chunks of money coming from people at the same address.

● State spending limits. Under federal regulations, candidates can spend only \$745,000 in the crucial Iowa caucuses campaign and only \$444,000 in the important New Hampshire primary. As a result, many campaigns engage in "creative financing," charging as much as possible to the national headquarters, renting cars in neighbouring states, and booking accommodations in out-of-state hotels. Overspending in these first contests is so common that the limits need to be revised, some political experts say.

Despite the infractions that occur, analysts say campaigns are far more accountable than they were before the federal election laws were revised in 1971. "I don't think the law is weak," says Herb Alexander, a political scientist at the University of Southern California. "If there's any weakness, it's that the FEC doesn't always do as much as it might" to enforce the law.

The Christian Science Monitor.

An urge to gain a release from powerlessness

Blacks are cheaper than bricks in South Africa

By Ned Temko

JOHANNESBURG: There was a problem with the Pretoria suburb's newest office complex: a brick wall on the edge of a parking lot that encroached on the site.

The problem was not particularly South African.

The solution was. Early one morning, a group of black workers arrived. Brick by painstakingly preserved brick, hour by hour, they began dismantling the wall. They placed the bricks in neat piles. Then, they began the job's second stage: reusing the old bricks in the new building.

"This taught me something fundamental about South Africa and its economy," recalls a foreign businessman who watched from his nearby office. "Here, blacks are cheaper than bricks."

Anger

It is a realisation most blacks in the turbulent urban townships come to early, and it causes two things to boil all in them. The first is a burning anger. The second is an instinct to keep that anger inside most of the time: blacks are too cheap, jobs too scarce, and whites (who hand out jobs, hire blacks, and control levers of state power) too powerful.

The equation dehumanises. It has left the overwhelming majority of blacks — whether young activist or their more cautious parents — united in one single political urge: to gain a release from their powerlessness. To some, this means forcing an end to white government, no matter how many years and deaths that may take, no matter how many more cycles of exploding black anger and reasserted white power may intervene.

To many more, it means a system where the spoils of power — the whites' gold earnings, suburban houses, swimming pools — are spread to the blacks who comprise more than three quarters of South Africa's population.

To increasingly few — at least to virtually none among the many dozens of blacks of all ages and political persuasions I got to know here — does it mean the right to ride in "white" buses, use "white" bathrooms, or attend (recently desegregated) "white" movie theatres. This, a main focus of recent government reform, seems to most present-day blacks the fine print of apartheid.

Although periods of black unrest — erupting in 1960, 1976, and most recently 1984 — have been coming at gradually closer intervals, the single most powerful political instinct for most blacks is to keep anger inside.

One evening a few months ago, Johannesburg's electricity suddenly failed — with whites already home in the suburbs, and

tens of thousands of blacks still waiting for commuter minibuses back to their townships. For several hours the city was without lights, without burglar alarms, and for that matter, without any visibly beefed up police presence. But there was not a single incident of looting.

Fear helps breed in blacks a reluctance to rebel, according to the country's foremost historian on black politics, Tom Lodge of Witwatersrand University. "Particularly since the state of emergency, only the foolhardy resist."

But psychology, too, is at work. Blacks have developed a talent under apartheid for what the profession terms "learned helplessness," an acceptance of the white-fostered idea that blacks are (or should be) passive, backward, inferior.

Economic and political calculations also play their part. Many blacks, as the government repeatedly assures its white constituents, want no part of a revolution.

These blacks may not like being "cheaper than bricks," but they have little trouble calculating the problems with the alternative: unemployment, which ranges at levels of more than 50 per cent in some townships. Made newly aware by an 18-month-old state of emergency that black unrest has not visibly dented Afrikaner supremacy, they tend to see "reform" as the one practical road away from apartheid.

In the squalid square mile of black township called Alexandra, bordering north Johannesburg's poshest white suburbs, a group of blacks munched sandwiches and talked politics on the day before this year's whites-only election. Asked who they would vote for if they could vote, some said, "P. W. Botha."

Changes

Their reasoning was that the South African President was indeed making some changes, and that eventual black government might in any case, given historic tribal differences, simply replace white oppression with black.

Yet, black anger is no less widespread for being largely hidden. After endorsing Botha for President, one Alexandrian added, "I would not really mind being ruled by a white... If I could have a good life, if oppression were gone, if I had my rightful part of the country in which I was born, then it wouldn't matter who was in charge."

Many thousands of nominally "moderate" blacks did participate in the unrest of 1985 and 1986, and many continue to boycott payment of township rents. Even in nominally apolitical blacks, the urge for a release from powerlessness surfaces — unexpectedly.

Cynthia Ngcwuzwe is a live-in maid for a politically liberal

white family.

She smiled obligingly as her boss, an insurance executive, told me that "she was like one of the family," how he and his wife would always keep part of the family dinner for her to eat afterwards, and how they'd opened a bank account where she could set aside part of her salary for the future.

Once out of her boss's earshot, Mrs Ngcwuzwe said: "The master and madam do not treat me well. Every morning, I must wake up at six o'clock, seven days a week, even on my day off, to put breakfast on the table. ... At night, I must stay with the children... I am not allowed to sleep in case something happens to the young ones. And many times the master and madam don't come home until one-thirty or two in the morning!"

Moses is a Soweto black who works as a driver for a Johannesburg Ford dealer. Polite and distant when our paths crossed outside a municipal car-inspection facility, he turned talkative when my accent revealed I was not South African.

Violence

How are things in the township, I asked. "Much better. There has been too much violence. We are all tired of this." But, he added, the recent boycott is still going strong. And he — for one — hoped it would stay strong.

"It is shameful, shameful that we would pay for these matchboxes that they tell us are homes!" said Moses.

Susan is a different sort of black. An office worker married to a black executive, she's part of the "middle class" which the South African government hopes to co-opt to the cause of political stability through reform.

I met her shortly after arriving in Johannesburg, at a time when state television was airing a milestone programme called Siyafunda — "We are learning" — to teach whites the rudiments of Zulu.

Insult

"Sawubona," I greeted her. (Hello, in Zulu.) Anger flared in her eyes. "Siyafunda," she replied with a derisive chuckle, indicating she assumed I had learned my Zulu from the TV programme.

"How did you guess?" I chuckled back self-consciously. Then, I tried to probe her anger. Was Siyafunda a bad idea?

"It is an insult!" she replied. "If the television really wants to show how sensitive they are to blacks, why not air a show teaching French or something a show that we could benefit from, to advance ourselves?"

Leslie Kheswa, now in his 40s and working as a "delivery boy" for a downtown Johannesburg

florist, is another man whom the government presumably would like to have aboard the "reform" process. In a sense, he seems an ideal candidate. A gentle person, Kheswa believes in Botha, he says. "They have repealed the Immorality Act (barring interracial marriage), and the pass laws..."

But in Kheswa, too, anger surfaces unexpectedly. Born in Alexandra — a rare township where, until apartheid's lawgivers intervened, blacks were allowed "freehold" ownership of their land — he was among tens of thousands summarily moved to a new township called Tembisa, about 10 miles further out.

"Alexandra was a poor place, but it was close to where we worked. We could walk," Kheswa recalls. "Not like now, where I spend an hour each morning on the train."

"When we arrived in Tembisa, there was nothing. The kitchen of our four-room house had a real floor. But the other rooms were dirt — with grass up to our knees. Things have improved since then. It is not a bad house. But you know, we still do not have electricity."

Mandla Mthembu simply doesn't believe the present government of South Africa will ever make things right. Now almost 31, he is a tall man with bespectacled eyes that often crinkle in self-deprecating laughter.

Questions

When he entered his teens, he and his mother and sister moved from their shared "maid's room" in a Johannesburg backyard to Soweto. In those days, he had no thoughts of politics.

That, Mthembu recalls, began to change when he was about 16. "In 1972, something called the Christian Students Movement

began to root, all over the country. The interest was religion. So even the government encouraged it."

"But the problem," he says, "was that, even if you distanced things from a Christian point of view, there were questions about our lives that were difficult for us to answer. Political questions. That, I guess, is how the whole thing started brewing."

In 1976, with the Soweto student rebellion, the "brew" bubbled over. By this time, Mthembu was a journalist for the city's crusading liberal journal, the now defunct Rand Daily Mail. "I had wanted to be a scientist," he recalls. "But obviously, the money wasn't there. And, as a journalist, Soweto had a very profound effect on me."

In 1981, he began working for the outlawed African National Congress.

Mthembu's first major ANC action turned out to be his last for many years. Responding to the government's establishment of separate state television stations for blacks — "a powerful propaganda tool, we felt" — he joined other activists in a "cell" planning to set an explosive charge at television headquarters. In what has become a routine feature of ANC activity here, one of the "activists" was in fact an informer.

The cell — nearly two dozen activists, including a white woman — was picked up, tried, convicted. Mthembu was imprisoned on Robben Island — the jail off Cape Town where ANC leader Nelson Mandela was held until his transfer in the early 1980s to Cape Town, proper, and where dozens of black-activist leaders are still kept. Mandla was released earlier this year.

Does he still support the cause for which he was jailed? "More so," he replies without hesitation.

He has emerged, he says, more realistic about the hopes for an early end to white-minority domination — feeling that, during the present unrest, as in 1976, blacks have proven they still lack the organisation for a final push toward power. "I am more realistic," he says. "but not more pessimistic..."

Comrade

Like many in the ANC — and the more recently formed, still unbanned, multiracial United Democratic Front — Mthembu is quick to add that he bears no hatred for white South Africans as a race. "After all, a white woman, a comrade of ours, was jailed with us."

John Kani shares Mthembu's "non-racial" approach. Kani is a man who fights with his words and emotions, not bullets.

South Africa's leading black actor, Kani won a Tony Award in 1975 for his role in the Broadway performance of Athol Fugard's "Sizwe Bansi Is Dead." More recently, he has played the lead in an unabashedly political production of Othello to packed, mostly white Johannesburg audiences.

Over tea early in the play's run, he said: "I consider myself a patriot, a combatant... whose first responsibility is to liberate my people." Then turning to his country's future, he issued an eloquent restatement of ANC ideology: "We must find a way to live together, without racism, in this land. We whites and blacks have so much to gain from this. We have so much that could bring us together..."

Asked what he and his white compatriots had in common, however, he paused. Then, he replied quietly, "No much, really. I think whites here are only trying to hang on in their good life." (CSM)

Seoul ready to reduce tension

TOKYO. (AP): South Korea wants to promote détente with North Korea in any forum, including talks in the Seoul Olympic Games. South Korean president-elect Roh Tae-Woo says.

"We want to promote reducing tensions with North Korea in whatever form — such as through sports talks on (the North's) Olympic participation," Roh said in a televised interview with the Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK).

South Korea "is ready to hold any talks, not just limited to sports talks with North Korea, if the North wants to," Roh said.

Recent events have worsened tensions between North and South Korea, which were divided after World War II and remain bitter rivals.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1568 — Turkey's Sultan Selim II makes peace with Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian II.
- 1670 — France signs defensive alliance with Bavaria.
- 1720 — Peace treaty between Quadruple Alliance and Spain is signed.
- 1813 — Prussia's Frederick William III declares war on France.
- 1852 — Repressive measures are adopted in France, including press censorship.
- 1897 — Britain rejects Austro-Russian proposal for blockade of Piræus in Greece.
- 1916 — British and French forces complete capture of Germany's African colony of Cameroon during World War I.
- 1934 — Belgium's King Albert I is killed while mountain climbing.
- 1936 — Anglo-Irish pact ends tariff war.
- 1944 — US forces attack Japanese at Eniwetok atoll in Pacific in World War II.
- 1965 — US spacecraft Ranger 8 is launched from Cape Kennedy, Florida, and makes crash-landing on moon three days later after sending back more than 7,000 pictures.
- 1987 — Shiite militiamen and leftist alliance of Druze and communist gunmen clash in Lebanon's West Beirut for control of capital's Muslim sector.

Getting more than I bargain for

By Kathy Cuddihy

ON an impulse, I stopped off at our local fruit and vegetable shop the other day. I came away with the conclusion that I really should go there more often. Not because the selection of fresh produce looks so good, and not because the prices are so reasonable, but because it's such fun. The cornucopia of colour stimulates me, and the stall-owners entertain me to such a degree that the happy effects linger long after I've gone home.

Usually I'm the only Western woman wandering up and down the long lanes of food. This distinguishing feature makes me stand out like a beacon toward which all the hawkers shout their prices and around which the "bag boys" gather in the hope of being hired to carry the morning's purchases.

When a seller shows particular persistence or charm, I stop to examine his selection.

"How much are these tomatoes?" I query, careful not to show too much interest.

"Ten riyals a box, madam."

"Are they top quality?" I ask suspiciously.

"They are the best, madam. Every one of them is fresh, firm and delicious, just the way Nature meant them to be."

"I think, my friend, that Nature never intended these poor victims on the bottom of the box to look quite so battered. As you can see, she has tried to hide some of the damage by giving them a blanket of mold."

Instead of showing embarrassment at being caught, the weathered little man gave a cry of incredulous dismay. How could this possibly have happened, his gestures imply as his arms fly into the air and his eyes grow



large and look to heaven for an answer.

"Please don't distress yourself," I console. "Perhaps we can still do business. A significant lowering of your price would help me to decide."

"Of course, Madam. In the circumstances it is the least I can do. Please let me offer them to you for 8 riyals."

"Well, quite honestly, I had something like 4 riyals in mind."

"You jest, of course, Madam, but because you have such a sense of humour, I am prepared to make a sacrifice and let you have the entire box for 7 riyals."

"I'll tell you what. Let me replace some of those furry specimens with a few as-Nature-meant-them tomatoes and I will relieve you of the box for the princely sum of 5 riyals."

As my little friend reluctantly handed me my box of hard-won tomatoes he stated, "Your bargaining is

too unrelenting for an old woman. Are you sure you don't have Arab blood in your veins?"

Beat

Now doesn't a little exchange like that beat going to an impersonal supermarket? In a store I would have quietly picked my tomatoes, paid for them and left. Here, I not only get my tomatoes, but I have the satisfaction of thinking that I got them for a great price. And I know full well that the lovely little old man who sold them to me didn't lose out either. He probably wishes all his customers afforded him as much profit as I did.

Successful haggling makes me feel good, but the delightful tradition of baksheesh makes me feel better. Small gifts of fresh ginger, an extra piece of fruit, a handful of beans added after everything has been weighed are given with a special grace and received with warm pleasure.

Occasionally, one of the

sellers gives me baksheesh that has a particular reference to our negotiations. A lively young wag trying to flog trays of vegetables comes instantly to mind.

After haggling for some time over the price of potatoes and coming to no compromise, the fellow appealed to my emotions.

"I am just a poor man who has the heavy responsibility of looking after his very large family. Why do you want to deprive me of a few riyals?"

"My man, I can well sympathise, for I am but a poor woman who has the constant grief of trying to clear her bank overdraft. I would never consider depriving you, just as I hope you would never think of robbing me. Therefore I surely must have misheard your last price, since it was much higher than anyone else's."

Eventually, after more beating down on my part and more concessions on his, we came to an agreement.

"Madam, your good Arabic inspires me to give in to you. Your tenacity wears me down and leaves me little choice but to give in. Take your potatoes."

"Kind gentleman, you make your offer with such sincerity that I am forced to accept. I would happily have given in to you, except that my bank manager is also tenacious. And his language is not nearly as gentle as mine. A riyal saved is a riyal that can go to pacify my banker."

Just as I was about to leave, the good-humoured character handed me a bag of plump, fresh garlic.

"Please accept this gift. I understand that in your culture you have a superstition which says garlic keeps vampires away. Perhaps it might help in the case of your bank manager."

Islamic marriage service growing

By Tahira Shaheed

"WHERE are all the single Muslim Women?" ask Membership Coordinators of Salaam Marriage-Intro Service International. Applications keep coming in from Muslim men throughout the United States and overseas, but for this community service to work, many more women are needed to get involved. When the idea of a marriage introduction service for Muslims was conceived, SMSINTL expected to be flooded by female applicants, and just the opposite has happened.

Started almost 3 years ago, (in Newark, New Jersey) SMSINTL was developed to help single men and women of the Islamic faith, and those interested in meeting Muslims, find compatible mates. The service is handled in a personal and confidential manner through the mails, using a detailed application form, individual attention and review by Membership Coordinators; and some computer assistance in the matching process.

To date, inquiries or applications have come in from every state in the United States and over 60 foreign countries. Numerous marriages and future marriages have been reported and the service has only reached a very small percentage of its real potential.

One of the main reasons for the success and strong interest in the service is that marriage is very important in Islam. For example the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: "When one is married he secures half his religion. So let him fear God in the other half." With marriage

having such a strong priority in the physical and spiritual development of Muslims, and a worldwide population of over one billion adherents, the potential of SMSINTL is tremendous. Another important point is that SMSINTL is absolutely not a dating service. "Dating by Western standards is strictly prohibited in Islam. All users of this service are urged to be encouraged to learn and practice the proper 'Adaab' (Islamic ethics of the Holy Quran and life example of Prophet Muhammad) regarding marriage and socialising between members of the opposite sex.

"We are committed to helping the worldwide Islamic community through our marriage services," says Mustafa Abdul-Baat, founder of SMSINTL. "Marriage and family life are vital for Muslims and this service can help those who are located throughout North America and elsewhere.

The Marriage Service was established to help the worldwide Muslim community become stronger by bringing Muslims and other right-minded people together. Stronger marriages will lead to better families and eventually stronger communities."

Some of the immediate problems facing single Muslims wanting to marry are as follows:

1. Geography — The US Muslim population is very spread out and diverse in ethnicity especially in the United States and Canada.

2. Social Activities — Many communities need to have more and better social and cultural

events, providing a positive atmosphere for single Muslims to meet.

3. Children — Sisters and brothers with children from a previous marriage or relationship have an especially difficult time finding a mate willing to become part of an already existing family structure.

4. Relocation — Many Muslims would like to find a mate in another city, state or even a foreign country for the purpose of relocating to begin a new life.

5. Imam — Some Muslims prefer a particular Imam (community leader) or school of thought and wish to find a mate with a similar outlook.

6. Compatibility — Regardless of geographic restraints or cultural activity level of the Muslim community, finding a man or woman you feel comfortable enough to marry is most important.

Factors SMSINTL plans to increase its advertising in the United States as well as overseas, despite the high cost of overseas advertising. Ads have been placed in Islamic publications in the United States with a tremendous response from Muslim men, but a much smaller response from women. Possible reasons for this include:

The low ratio of unmarried Muslim women in the US to Muslim men.

Poor circulation of Islamic publications, and also a certain hesitancy on the part of women to approach a service like this.

Other factors affecting the service itself are the expectations of the members. SMSINTL constantly appeals to its

members to be more flexible in the type of person they wish to meet. Many members requirements are unrealistic in terms of age, educational and ethnic compatibility.

Many men in the service are unrealistic and unfair by requiring only younger, or virgins. In some cases the men insist on only being introduced to virgins, even though many of the men themselves have been previously married. Many of the women are equally unfair in their expectations by demanding "Prince Charming" in terms of physique, income or education level, although the sisters are not nearly as selective as the male applicants.

Of the 50% Arab and immigrants membership in SMS, many men requested to be introduced to only Arab or Caucasian women, and this is particularly hard to service. A research study in the United States by the Islamic Teaching Center in Indianapolis, Indiana consisted of a 75% male and 25% female sample. It is believed this is a realistic ratio of unmarried Middle Eastern men to women in the United States considering our inquiries have been mostly from men.

Therefore many of the requests for women of their own ethnic background and Caucasian women (there is a very low percentage of Caucasian Muslim women in the United States) has created a serious problem. SMSINTL is appealing to single Muslim women and non-Muslim women who are interested in learning about the Islamic culture and lifestyle, to write to the organization for full information on the functions of the service.

By Kuldip Nayar

Dowry suicide shocks Indians

THE suicide of three sisters in Kanpur because their parents did not have enough money for their dowries has shaken many people. The girls were found hanging from the ceiling in their house in a modest middle-class area.

The eldest girl was a post-graduate student in Hindi and the other two were studying for an MA and a BA. Their father, Mr Daya Prasad Sahu, assis-

tant administrative officer in the Life Insurance Company, earns £130 a month.

He told police that talks about the marriages of his two elder daughters broke down three times because their prospective in-laws demanded too much money.

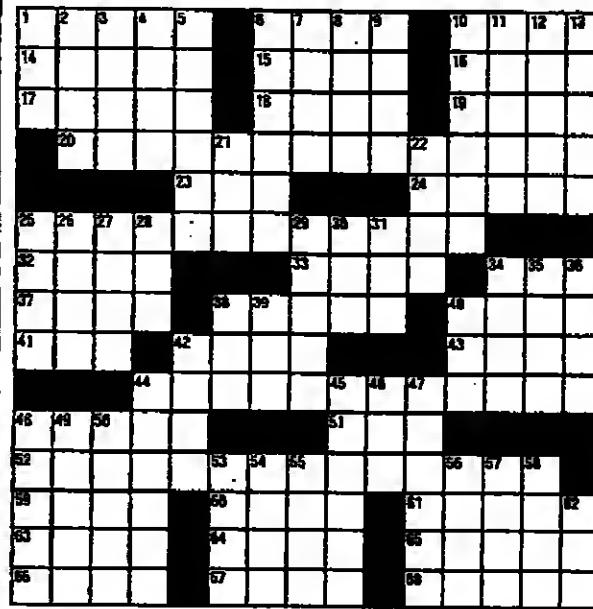
In India, where marriages are generally arranged by parents, a dowry — which can include money, a television set

and other household goods — is essential and is decided beforehand. There have been instances where the bridegroom has returned from the bride's house without marrying her because the contracted dowry was not forthcoming.

The Government has a rule that public servants will not accept any dowry, including a house and a car.

A law against dowry is as old as the British Raj in India, and the punishment has been stiffened in the past few years because of increasing instances of bride-burning for not having brought enough dowry and in-laws' persistent demands even after marriage. It is a social evil which society has taken in its stride, like discrimination against people of low caste.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



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|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------|
| ACROSS | 1 Dam on the Nile | 59 Peerless | 25 Disconcert |
| 6 Necessity for | 60 Nimbus | 26 Image | |
| 44 Across | 61 Post Ezra | 27 Chromosome | |
| 10 Jumpers do it | 62 Cat's-paw | 28 Function | |
| 14 Nuanse | 63 Twice MI | 29 Familiar | |
| 15 Eff of Persian | 64 Utah ranga | 30 DDE opponent | |
| 18 Ring of light | 65 Place for a | 31 Golf gadget | |
| around the sun | chapeau | 34 Knights of | |
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| 42 Ebb's opposite | 11 Watering | | |
| 43 Host at Valhalla | place | | |
| 44 Class of events | 12 Carroll's | | |
| In 20 Across | heroine | | |
| 48 Alarm | 13 Piece de | | |
| 51 Prompt | resistance | | |
| 52 Location of | 21 Cote d'Ivoire | | |
| 20 Across | 22 Talking horse | | |
| | of TV | | |
| | 62 June VIP | | |

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
DON'T SPREAD THE FERTILIZER

East-West vulnerable. North

NORTH
♠ Q J 2
♥ 7 6
♦ 10 8 6 4 3 2
♣ 5 4

WEST
♠ 10 9 6 5 4
♥ 10 9
♦ J 7
♣ 7 6 3 2

EAST
♠ 8 3
♥ J 5 2
♦ K Q 9 5
♣ Q J 10 9

SOUTH
♠ A K 7
♥ A K Q 8 4 3
♦ A
♣ A K 8

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
3 NT	Pass	5 ♥	Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠
You are looking at the biggest hand we have seen in many years. It was dealt in the finals of both the Open and Women's Team Championships at the recent World Team Championship. As you can see, all 13 tricks are there for the taking.

Although, this hand was played at four tables in the finals of the most prestigious bridge event of 1987, not a single pair even managed to bid a small slam! One pair had a bidding misunderstanding and "stole" the contract at two clubs. South played the hand well and with some help from the de-

fense, actually made his contract. At two tables, brave North-South pairs ventured all the way to five hearts, at which contract South could feel relatively safe. At the fourth table South played it super-safe and never ventured beyond four hearts.

The bidding shown features the newest craze in expert circles—ferts. These are ultra-weak opening bids and their name derives from "fertilizer." We'll try to explain how they work.

North's one club opening bid showed 0-7 points and any distribution. South's two club response was artificial and forcing. North's two hearts was negative and South raised to show a strong hand and his real suit. North signed off with three no trump, but South persisted by jumping over game. North, perhaps overly cautious because of the fact that he would be declarer, didn't visualize his hand as being worth one trick, let alone two, so he passed.

Could it be that "ferts" are indeed a lot of fertilizer?



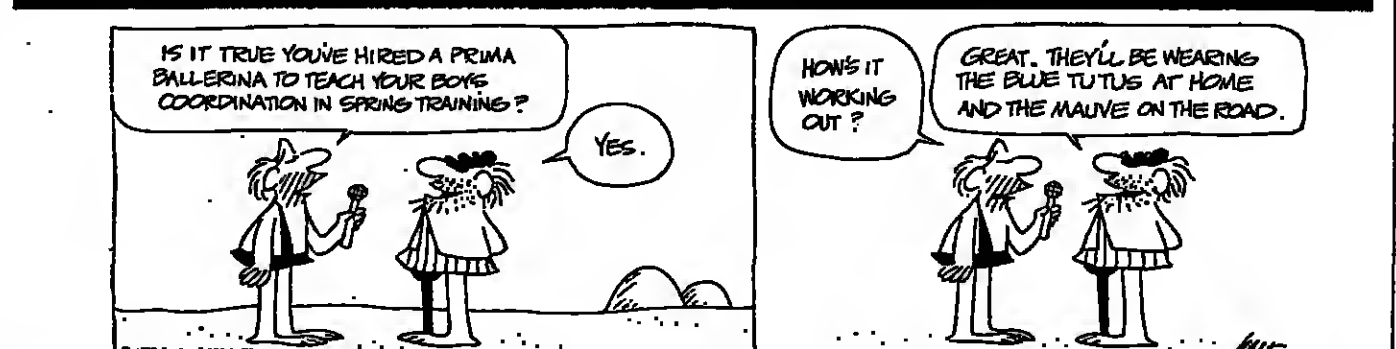
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

<p>Aries (March 20 - April 18)</p> <p>You should have more faith in yourself. Try not to be quite so selfish. Do all you can to improve harmony with your partner. Be respectful.</p>	<p>Cancer (June 21 - July 21)</p> <p>You will find it a little hard to get down to what has to be done. You should consider an offer or proposal most carefully. Something you have promised to do should be carried out whatever the difficulties. Be more positive.</p>	<p>Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)</p> <p>You will be able to make a few changes for the better. You should have the courage of your convictions. And you should not abandon a project just because of one or two unforeseen difficulties. Be a little more tidy.</p>	<p>Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)</p> <p>The planetary influences will help you to do what has to be done. Though you will have some good luck you cannot rely on it to get you out of trouble. You should not place too much trust in your intuitions either. Be resilient.</p>
<p>Taurus (April 19 - May 19)</p> <p>You have no time to lose and should avoid dithering. You will not be quite pleased with the way things are going. Do all you can to avoid an argument and to settle a disagreement. Be lenient.</p>	<p>Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)</p> <p>The Moon's less favourable influence will give rise to some cause for concern. You will have to make a real effort if you want to meet all your commitments. You should try to adapt yourself to change. Be a little more tolerant.</p>	<p>Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)</p> <p>You will not be quite pleased with the way things are going. You should try to rid yourself of some prejudices and resentments. Make sure you read the instructions before beginning to use a new device or instrument. Be sensible.</p>	<p>Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)</p> <p>The Moon's better influence will enable you to place more reliance on your ideas. You must not leave until later what you know should be done now. Do not wait for something to turn up, it probably will not, so act now. Be respectful.</p>
<p>Gemini (May 20 - June 20)</p> <p>You should take care not to exaggerate. Do not rely on your imagination and do not believe you have heard what you would have liked to hear. Avoid deceiving others as well as yourself. Be cordial.</p>	<p>Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)</p> <p>You will feel rather nervous and the situation is rather sensitive. So do your best to take a dispassionate approach. Looking on the light side will not do any great harm. Be frugal.</p>	<p>Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)</p> <p>You should take much better care of your health. You are rather liable to forget something so make sure you check that all that needs to be done has been done. If you feel tired try to have an early night. Be tactful.</p>	<p>Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)</p> <p>Do not shy away from doing something that has to be done. There will be some difficulties but they are not insuperable. You will be able to do an old friend a favour. Be reliable.</p>

HERITAGE

Australian Bicentennial no cause for celebration

Aborigines culturally demoralised

As Australia celebrates 200 years of European occupation, its first inhabitants remain virtual outcasts, living largely in rural areas, in a continent they have inhabited for some 40,000 years.

By Richard Bill

SYDNEY, Australia. (AP): Australia's aborigines have little reason to rejoice after 200 years of European occupation. In fact, aboriginal militants have declared 1988 a year of mourning.

Australia's first inhabitants remain virtual outcasts, living largely in rural areas, in a continent they have inhabited for some 40,000 years.

Aborigines were granted equal rights in 1967, and there is no institutionalised form of racial segregation. But there is a yawning cultural gap between the aborigines and the European settlers, although the government has spent hundreds of millions of dollars in health plans and education programmes.

Aboriginal unemployment is six times the national average of 7.3 per cent. Aborigines typically earn half the national average wage of about 310 dollars a week. Eleven per cent of them have never been to school, compared with one per cent for the rest of the country. Official statistics also show that an aborigine is 16 times more

likely to go to jail than a white. Infant mortality among aborigines is nearly three times that of non-aborigines and 32 per cent of aboriginal children up to the age of nine have some form of trachoma (blindness), compared with only 1.6 per cent of non-aborigines.

"The state of aboriginal affairs in this country is nothing short of disgraceful," said aboriginal affairs secretary Charles Perkins.

Perkins calls the coming months the "most crucial" in Australia's history because of anticipated protests against the bicentennial.

Aboriginal activists have vowed to send a reenactment of the first convict voyage back to sea, calling it celebration of invasion, not of the nation.

Recognises

Prime Minister Bob Hawke has sought a treaty with aborigines, acknowledging many "grave injustices" against an indigenous people who number 160,000, or one per cent of the population of 16 million.

They include instances of "pacification by force" between the arrival of the first

white settlers and the 1880s, when whites killed many aborigines and drove others into the bush.

The government now recognises that aborigines had prior ownership of a continent dubbed "Terra nullius", or empty land, when it was settled by Europeans in 1788. The decision is expected to have major implications in future land rights claims.

Hawke, in calling for a compact of understanding, implored all Australians to understand what colonisation meant to aborigines.

Of the 260 languages spoken in pre-colonial times, only a handful exist now. Many aborigines live in poverty in camps on fringes of outback towns with no running water or electricity and often open sewage.

Justice Marcus Einfeld, a human rights official, broke down after visiting one such camp, declaring "this can't be happening in Australia".

Drunkness, wretched poverty and crime remain major social problems. "There can hardly be a civilised person in Australia who



An Aboriginal warrior: Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke has sought a treaty with aborigines acknowledging many "grave injustices" against an indigenous people who number 160,000 or one per cent of the Australian population.

does not have sympathy for the aboriginal community," said the Australian, the country's only national newspaper in a recent editorial.

"They have been dispossessed, they have seen their culture destroyed, for many years they suffered gross discrimination and now they are profoundly culturally demoralised."

Although a celebration of 200 years of achievement, the paper said: "In terms such as these many aboriginal people will participate in bicentennial projects."

"But others will regard the last 200 years as such a unmitigated tragedy that they will decline to participate in the bicentennial at all."

Striking a balance between tradition and modernity

Eskimos caught in a tug of war

By Gary Regenstreif

INUVIK, Northwest Territories: Goose plucking, seal skinning and tea boiling contests are becoming more memories for many natives of northern Canada.

Gone from the icy wilderness outside this Arctic community near the Beaufort Sea are the throngs of men who set out for up to six months at a time 25 years ago to hunt wolf, lynx, fox and caribou. Pelts were their sole source of income.

The Eskimo drum dance is giving way to breakdancing. And villages like Inuvik, a town of 3,000 whose name means place where people are born, are losing their knowledge of native tongues.

Some in Canada's north embrace the customs and technology imported by white men which boosted their standard of living.

But others, like Inuit Mary Ettagiak, sensing their heritage slipping away, are caught between the tug of their roots and the lure of modernity.

"They're confused," said Ettagiak, a 26-year-old mental health worker. "We're trying to adapt to it and also hang on to our culture."

The largest influx of whites in recent history has been through oil companies which have spent the past three decades exploring what are believed to be vast reserves of untapped oil and gas in the Beaufort Sea.

The firms hired some native

labourers for work on rigs and at base camps. But they found themselves unemployed when oil prices dropped, making exploration too costly. Some learned to establish businesses in the area.

"Before, just about everybody was hunting," said Ettagiak. "There's hardly anybody out there now. The young don't know how to hunt."

Conveniences

One who welcomes the conveniences of modern technology is the outspoken chief of the Inuvik Dene band of Indians who, however, blames the white man for importing vice as well.

"Nobody loses his culture," Chief Cecil McCauley said in an interview in her house, equipped with a modern kitchen and video cassette recorder. "I can still set rabbit snares but I don't have the time. I love the easy things like the phone."

"The problem," she said, "is coming from nothing to a heck of a lot in too short a time."

Most young natives drop out of high school, and alcoholism and suicide are increasingly widespread problems among youth seeking escape from unemployment and what McCauley describes as cultural alienation.

In a weekly column in a local newspaper, News/North, McCauley often lobbies the territorial or federal governments for more funding to combat alcoholism or provide job

training and blames them for a lack of economic development.

"The statistics on child welfare are depressing," she said in a recent column. "Children have suffered psychologically. There is alienation, confusion in cultural identity."

Inuvik has 3,000 people, four pubs and seven churches but no bowling alley, cinema or community centre. Recent community gatherings have been called to cope with a rash of glue sniffing by young natives.

"It's from a lack of recreation," McCauley said. "And they're learning from white people."

Before they didn't have electricity but they were industrious and happy. Now they know all the vices. It's getting worse all the time.

About a quarter of the town is unemployed, making it difficult to afford unleaded gas at around \$2.50 a gallon and the 75-80 dollars a month needed for electricity to heat a one bedroom flat.

It was worse a year and a half ago when a military base closed and 1,200 people left, taking about 75,000 dollars in weekly payroll out of the local economy.

At the same time oil companies lifted anchor because of a sharp drop in the price of crude. The manager of the local Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Stuart Coates, said 35 to 40 per cent of the bank's loan portfolio was lost as one-third of the town's 150 businesses



Some Eskimos in Canada's north embrace the customs and technology imported by the white men, but others like Inuit Mary Ettagiak (right) sense their heritage slipping away.

closed down.

Part-time mayor Gordon Campbell, a white man who runs a garage in town, acknowledges there is no outlet for the youths but is angered that whites get blamed for their woes.

"They've just got nothing to do," he said.

Campbell predicted that integrated schools, more interracial marriages and a dying language will make it difficult to preserve the heritage. "It's a doomed culture," he said.

Chief McCauley is also resigned to the new ways.

"I'm all for development," she said. "We can live in both worlds. The new ways are here to stay. Natives may as well live with it."

But Ettagiak has 10-year-old daughter Maxime and son Frank, five, learning their native tongue in school.

She will still make beaver fur and moosehide boots for the children with white fox fur hooded coats and wolf fur mitts.

By David Storey

CHIANGMAI, Thailand. (Reuters): The "Spirits of the Yellow Leaves" Thailand's most reclusive people, are headed for destruction, victims of a rigid belief in the commands of the spirits and the march of the 20th Century.

The primitive tribe, numbering less than 150 men, women and children, calls itself the Mlabri, or forest people.

But so elusive have they been over the centuries that other tribes doubted their physical existence, identifying them as spirits associated with the shelters of yellow leaves they left behind in their restless jungle wandering.

The Mlabri believe that the spirits do not allow them to cultivate land, and that they must keep on the move.

Anthropologists, missionaries and tour operators are trying to save the Mlabri, each with their own motives, but the tribe's ancient way of life based on hunting and root-gathering in the dwindling northern forests seems doomed.

"I cannot imagine what will happen to them," said Surin Pookajorn, a Thai academic who spent three years researching the peripatetic tribespeople and is promoting a project to ease them into a more settled life.

The erosion of the Mlabri lifestyle has been dramatic in

Primitive Thai tribe heading for doom

the last 10 years.

Uncontrolled logging in the mountain ranges close to the Laos border, rapid growth of other peoples, and penetration of roads into remote areas squeezed their natural environment.

Now even trekking compan-

ies catering for foreign tourists are including the shy, impoverished tribespeople as a curiosity alongside elephant rides and a bathe in a waterfall.

"They don't mind us visiting them," said Yuthana Komlai of Exotic Tours, one of several companies offering treks from



A young mother of the elusive Mlabri tribe, known as the "Spirits of the Yellow Leaves" tends her children under a primitive bamboo shelter. The tiny tribe is threatened by the encroachment of civilisation on their forest habitat.

Spirit

The spirit of the sky, the strongest of spirits, does not allow the Mlabri to cultivate crops on their own land, although circumstances have forced them to work the land of the bigger, powerful Hmong tribe for a pittance.

"The Hmong treat them like slaves," said Surin, who is attached to Bangkok's Silpakorn University. They are given rice or a pig in return for a promise of work for a Hmong village and become permanently indebted, he said.

Where formerly the Mlabri ranged over vast tracts of forest, grubbing for roots, catching bamboo rats and wild pigs and heaving their only instruments from bamboo, they have become increasingly tied to one place.

Still the spirits do not allow them to settle down and live

under anything other than their traditional shelters, and they sleep in family groups beside wood fires that also keep dangerous animals at bay.

Every few days, wearing just a loincloth or ragged clothes given by the Hmong, they still pack up their meagre possessions of bamboo water carriers, a few mats and spears, and erect a new shelter, sometimes only a few hundred yards away.

"Fear just dominates their lives," said Gene Long, an American new tribes missionary who has tried for seven years to help Mlabri families settle down in a remote piece of land where he grows fruit trees.

"They come to me when they need help, when someone is sick," he said, adding that a group of 34 living with him had left last May and had not been seen since.

He accuses those who want to preserve the present Mlabri lifestyle unchanged of violating their human rights. "They are treating these people like specimens in a zoo. They must be given the chance to advance if they want to," he said.

Although they often change their spouses, the Mlabri stick rigidly to the principle of not marrying outside the tribe.

But slowly old customs are breaking down. They used to simply place their dead in trees, where they were often eaten by animals. Now, under pressure from other tribes, they bury them.

ARAB TIMES MONTHLY

BINGO

COMPETITION NO. 63

PRIZES

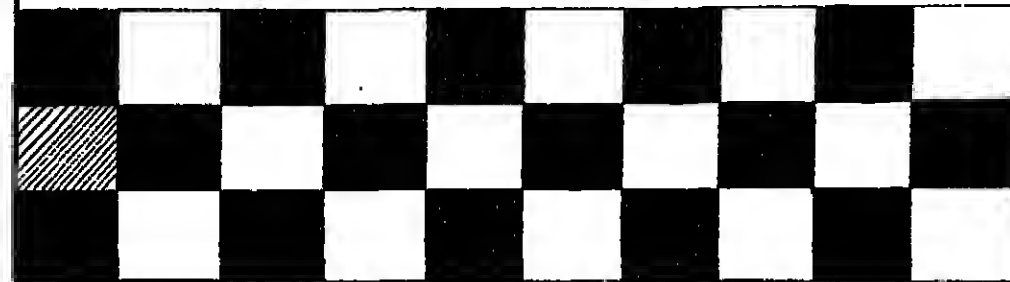
First Full House: KD 100
Second Full House: KD 60
Third Full House: KD 40
Top Line: KD 25
Four Corners: KD 25

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HOW TO PLAY

1. Solve the clue underneath the entry card (below) and enter the number that you think is the answer in the shaded square on the left-hand side of the card. This square must be completed.
2. Now select a further 14 numbers between 1 and 90 inclusive and enter these in the remaining open squares. You should now have 15 DIFFERENT numbers on your card. Please write them clearly, in ballpoint or ink.
3. Fill in your name and address in the appropriate lines on the form, in block letters.
4. Make an exact copy of your 15 numbers on the copy card provided underneath, and keep it so that you can check off your numbers as they appear in the ARAB TIMES every day.
5. Register your Free Bingo entry by sending it to the ARAB TIMES. Read details below carefully.
6. Watch out for YOUR numbers each morning in the ARAB TIMES.

FREE BINGO No. 63 ENTRY



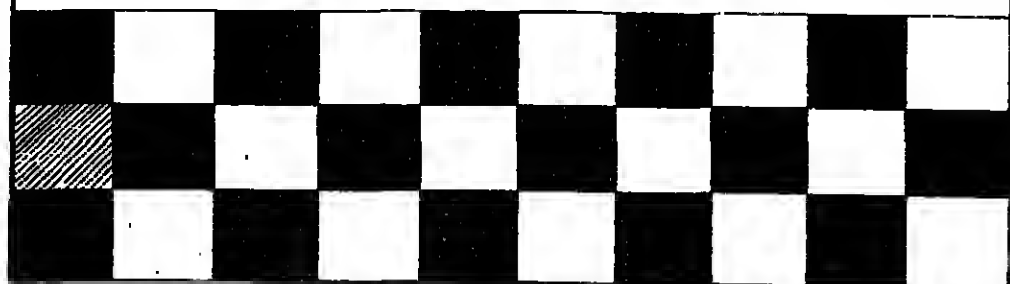
ANSWER THIS CLUE IN THE SHADED SQUARE:
THREE SCORE THREE

NAME (Mr./Mrs./Miss)

ADDRESS

IS YOUR NAME ON THE BACK OF THE ENVELOPE?

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Is the initial of your surname in the front of the envelope?

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card and copy card and filled in your name and address, send in your entries, by post, addressed to:

Bingo,
Arab Times,
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A surer alternative is to deliver by hand to the Arab Times, Al-Seyassah Building, Airport Road, Shuwaikh.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Gulf banks set to boost their London operations

LONDON, Feb 16, (Kuna): Gulf banks are set to increase their London operations in 1988, despite plans to cut costs and reassess staffing levels at home, according to a specialised publication here yesterday.

In the next few months, three or four Gulf banks are likely to open new representative offices in the capital, beginning with Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait, which expects to be in operation in late March, Middle East Economic Digest (Mee) reported in its latest issue.

In addition, the weekly noted that the banks are looking to upgrade employment in London.

A total of eight Gulf banks have already representative offices in the British capital. A bank establishing a representative office is only required to notify the Bank of England (Central Bank) within a month of doing so.

The banks conduct marketing activities together with keeping abreast of developments and products in the international financial markets, Mee added.

London is seen as having clear advantage over other banking centres, notably New York. The cost of running an office, high in London, is even notably higher in New York.

The magazine also pointed out that New York market does not compare with London as an international centre.

For many banks, a representative office is just a stepping stone towards the granting of a full banking licence. As a full bank, an institution is able to open retail branches and develop treasury operations.

The development of retail services makes sense only for a bank whose retail client base at home is sufficiently broad to be worth supporting in London.

Oman's oil production will average 550,000 bpd

MUSCAT, Oman, Feb 16, (AP): Oman's oil production will continue during 1988 and the remaining two years of the present five-year plan at a daily average of 550,000 barrels, the Central Bank's monthly publication reported today.

The magazine, Al Markazi, said oil sales, which account for 81 per cent of state revenues, were forecast this year at 1065.3 million rials (\$2.7 billion).

Total government revenue this year is estimated to be 1,314.9 million rials (\$3.3 billion). State expenditure is estimated to be 1,566.9 million rials (\$4 billion).

It quoted Oil Minister Saeed Al Shanfari as saying that if the member states of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries adhered to production quotas agreed upon, prices are very likely to increase with a rise in demand.

Production
Oman is not a member of the 13-nation Opec, but the sultanate has been reducing its own production to help the organisation stabilise the world market around a barrel price of \$18.

Oman introduced on Feb 1 a five per cent reduction in its oil production in support of Opec, cutting daily output from 565,000 to 536,750 barrels. It was the third cut since September 1986.

A 15 per cent cut was made in state expenditure last year, to reduce what Al Markazi described as an "exploding fiscal deficit" which rose to 700.2 million rials (\$1.8 billion) as the result of the 1980's drop in oil prices.

KPMG, Masoud & Co. hold seminar

Decision support systems under review

By M.C. Bose

KPMG Peat Marwick, the leading management consultants in coordination with its representative office in Kuwait, Masoud & Co. Public Accountants held a top level presentation yesterday at Kuwait Meridien on the role of financial modelling and decision support system in business planning.

It was attended by over 35 top business executives and managers from oil, bank, investment, manufacturing and trading organisations in Kuwait.

The presentation started with the introductory speech by Masoud E. Sorkhou, the executive partner of Masoud & Co. Public Accountants. Errol Babington a senior managing consultant from Peat Marwick London focussed on applications of financial modelling and decision support systems using spread sheets and packages on a micro computer.

Projects

KPMG has offices in approximately 110 countries including 15 offices in the Middle East and 8 in the Gulf.

Babington joined Peat Marwick in April 1978. Since then he has specialised in corporate planning and the financial appraisal of investment projects, including the application of computer modelling and decision support systems in these areas.

He has designed and built a number of computer models to appraise and evaluate leisure developments and transportation projects, as well as one to assist an international bank with



Some of those who attended the seminar.

their budgeting and the management of their loans.

He also worked on the commissioning of a new general hospital in Saudi Arabia.

For this project he designed a hospital statistics reporting system and developed a series of computer models that were used both in the formulation of patient treatment plans and in the preparation of detailed operating budgets for the various divisions of the hospital.

Presentation

During the first week of this month another presentation was held in Peat Marwick's offices in Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Bahrain. Babington said the local

businessmen have already shown a great deal of interest in the presentations. He added: "Middle Eastern organisations are finding themselves under growing pressure to optimise their use of resources and to ensure more thorough strategic planning. I hope that this series of presentations will help to increase awareness of the benefits and uses of financial modelling and decision support systems."

The pace of technological and commercial change demands that companies wishing to harness the latest developments and to exploit market opportunities can only do so through sound and effective planning — too many companies fail because

they don't pay enough attention to developing strategy for the business.

In the public sector, organisations now realise that they need to articulate their purpose and objectives and plan for the future.

Direction

At the corporate level, developing a strategy involves taking into consideration many internal and external factors.

Management has to consider the score of the organisation's activities and the values, expectations and goals of those who have a stake in the operation.

In deciding the longer term direction of the organisation, the



Masoud E. Sorkhou addresses the seminar.

environmental influences likely to affect its future must be understood.

Competitive, economic, political, technological and social factors have to be analysed so that both threats and opportunities can be identified.

The functional areas of the firm have to be reviewed to focus on its strengths and weaknesses and how these may affect the strategic choice. Financial resources have to be matched to opportunities and the implications of change on the operation must be carefully considered.

Brian Taylor the Dubai-based management consultant of KPMG also addressed the seminar.

Call to strengthen accord

Louvre currency pact gets mixed verdict

PARIS, Feb 16, (Reuters): The verdict is mixed on the one-year-old Louvre accord, credited by some for rescuing the world financial system but blamed by others for helping to cause the crash of 87.

Now, some call for strengthening the accord — agreed at a crisis meeting of finance ministers of the United States, Japan, West Germany, France, Britain and Canada last February 22 in a bid to arrest a threatening decline in the value of the dollar and keep the world economy out of recession.

In the accord, the United States pledged to cut its massive trade and budget deficits, although the steps to do so would cause pain at home. Japan and West Germany agreed to set aside worries about inflation and boost their economies.

Markets

The idea was that the dollar would then stabilise. And just to make sure, central banks were ready to intervene in currency markets to keep it steady. But there was a problem.

"They tried to stabilise the dollar at too high a level," said Steven Bell, senior economist at London investment bankers Morgan Grenfell and Co Ltd. "You can hold back a wave but you can't stop the tide."

Many dealers did not believe Washington, Tokyo and Bonn would take the steps to meet their Louvre accord agreements, and they felt a series of huge US monthly trade deficits seemed to confirm this view. The dollar remained under pressure.

Investors grew more nervous. And as more and more felt the Louvre accord was not solving fundamental economic problems, dealers said the skies were greased for a market crash.

Then US Treasury Secretary James Baker attacked West German policy in an October televi-

sion interview.

Dealers and investors read this as the end of the Louvre accord. They decided to move out of the dollar, and out of shares generally. And fast.

On "Black Monday", October 19, the first trading day after Baker's interview, Wall Street shares fell 22.6 per cent.

Senior monetary officials in Washington, Bonn and Tokyo have consistently said the accord is working, even when financial markets felt their economic policies were diverging from it.

"In informal meetings here I hear a lot of pessimism," US Assistant Treasury Secretary David Mulford said during last month's world economic forum in Davos, Switzerland.

Direction

"But policies are moving in the right direction... we are in a delicate process of confidence-building. There is no substitute for patience," he said.

Bank of Japan Governor Satoshi Sumita gave an upbeat appraisal of the Louvre accord's first year at a briefing in Tokyo earlier this month.

"Industrial nations have coordinated their national policies... they have cooperated in foreign exchange markets when needed. As a result exchange rates are now moving toward stability, although they went through some wild fluctuations in the past year," he said.

And dealers say they have been wary of selling dollars too aggressively because of large-scale central bank intervention — they say that as part of the Louvre accord, central bankers bought nearly \$120 billion to buoy the US currency.

Stable

"For the majority of 1987 the dollar was extremely stable and you could thank the Louvre accord for that. But the stability came at great expense," Sonia Stromeyer, currency analyst at

MMS International Inc in New York, said.

"Basically they (the central banks) were financing our current account deficit," she added.

The October stock market crash and subsequent slump in the dollar to post-war record lows against the mark and yen, led to feverish speculation in November and December that Group of Seven finance ministers — the Louvre accord signers plus Italy — would be forced to meet to defuse the crisis.

Credit

But the ministers chose instead to issue a joint statement on December 22, reaffirming their commitment to the Louvre accord and pledging to intensify economic coordination.

Now French Finance Minister Edouard Balladur, who has taken much of the credit as architect and host of the accord, is pressing for a Group of Seven agreement to end the current system where currency exchange rates float freely, with tighter control of international markets.

"What was missing from the Louvre accord was any element of automatic discipline," Balladur said in a recent speech here.

"It is difficult to see the Louvre accord as a success but maybe it was a necessary stage policy-makers had to go through in working out a viable means of international cooperation," said Gerald Holtam of investment bankers Credit Suisse First Boston, in London.

Oil product exports fetch \$89 million

QUITO, Feb 16, (Opecna): Ecuador's revenue from petroleum product exports last year amounted to \$89 million, according to a report by the Ministry of Energy and Mines.

The ministry said that total oil product sales for the year amounted to 5.70 million barrels, of which 3.44 million was exported from Balao refinery and 2.26 million from the La Libertad facility.

Down

The report noted that total exports were down by 993,168 barrels over the previous year, due mainly to the oil production problems Ecuador suffered as a result of the series of earthquakes that hit the country in March 1987.

World Business Summary

Fishery official warns of counter-sanctions to US

SAPPORO, Japan, Feb 16, (Reuters): A Japanese fishery official today threatened revenge if the United States went ahead with plans to cut Japan's fishing rights in US waters. US Commerce Secretary William Verity said on Wednesday that because Japan had decided to continue research whaling its fish allocations in US waters could be cut by half.

"If this happens, there will be voices in the Japanese fishing industry calling for a cut in Japanese purchases of US fishery products," said Eishiro Shoji, vice-president of the Hokkaido Fisheries Association.

The economy of Japan's northern island of Hokkaido is largely dependent on fishing and its ships produce a quarter of Japan's total fish catch, Shoji said. He called the US Policy on fishing rights "reasonable and high-handed." In London, the International Whaling Commission announced on Monday that its members had voted 19-6 to call on Japan to stop research whaling. There were eight abstentions. The vote followed a proposal by Japan for a research study involving the killing of 300 minke whales in the Antarctic this season, which ends in March. In Tokyo, Agriculture Minister Takashi Sato told reporters: "We have no intention of suspending whale hunting for research purposes."

ANB profits rise sharply

RIVADH, Feb 16, (Reuters): Riyadh-based Arab National Bank reported today a 32.3 per cent rise in 1987 profit, halting a two-year slide in earnings. Arab National, the first of Saudi Arabia's 11 banks to release 1987 earnings, said in a statement net profit rose to 201.2 million riyals (\$54 million) from 152.1 million in 1986 (\$40 million).

Bankers said the results were encouraging, but cautioned it was too early to predict a general upturn in profits for the Saudi banking industry which has been depressed by the need to make heavy loan loss provisions. Arab National Bank, owned 60 per cent by Saudi nationals and 40 per cent by Jordan's Arab Bank Ltd, is traditionally a "cash rich" bank and has kept a low profile in lending in the kingdom's private sector where problem loans are concentrated. As a result, bankers say, it has been able to place surplus cash with other banks in the "interbank market" and earn a comparatively risk-free return. The bank reduced the level of provisions set aside in its 1987 accounts by 28 per cent to 62.2 million riyals (\$16.6 million) and lending 2.77 billion riyals (\$740 million) makes up only 21 per cent of total end-1987 assets.

Soviet industrial output up

MOSCOW, February 16, (Xinhua): Soviet industrial output rose 4.7 per cent in January over the same period last year, but product quality remains a serious problem, the Soviet daily Trud (Labour) reported today. The fuel and energy industries grew steadily and the output of the machine-building industry also increased. However, according to the paper, targets for many key industries were not met. State quality-control organisations examined the output of 2,200 enterprises in January and found that products valued at 1.3 billion roubles (about \$2.1 billion) were below standard. This was equal to nine per cent of the total industrial output, the paper said. Last year, Soviet industrial output grew 3.8 per cent, which was below both the 4.4 per cent target and the 4.9 per cent increase recorded in 1986. The state economic plan envisages a 4.5 per cent growth in industrial output for 1988.

Economic growth to slow down

BEIJING, Feb 16, (Qana-Xinhua): Researchers in China believe that after the increase in China's economic growth in 1987, the rate of development will slow down. But the speed will pick up again in 1989 or 1990, said Wu Minglu of the National Research Centre for Scientific and Technological Development under the State Science and Technology Commission. He told "China Daily" that the conclusion came from a study of the history of the country's economic development and from figures provided by the State Statistics Bureau. China's economic development has had its ups and downs, and as a rule, the average period between peaks is about 3.6 years, he said. Last year, the country's gross national product reached 1.08 trillion yuan (\$291 billion), an increase of 9.4 per cent over 1986. In 1988, he said, the government is expected to pay more attention to agriculture and exert greater efforts to enrich farmland in winter and spring.

US firms set to woo Arab buyers

MORE than 40 American companies are taking part in MEFEX 88, the 5th Middle East Food and Equipment Show set to take place in Bahrain from February 27 to March 2 at the Exhibition Centre, Bahrain.

The American pavilion at the exhibition will, in fact, have the largest number of companies among the ten national groups in the show.

The American exhibitors range from traditional fruit-product companies, rice producers, packers to meat suppliers.

In addition there will be displays from ten marketing and promotional federations who will handle trade enquiries on behalf of manufacturers and suppliers in the United States.

These include the US Rice Council, the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (Nasda), the US

Meat Export Federation, the Washington State Apple Commission and the California Independent Almond Growers (Ciag), among others. The American companies will be promoting themselves under the banner "Yum Yum America."

Ptamber Devgon of the US Agriculture Trade Office in Manama attributes the presence of so many American companies in MEFEX to the importance that the USA attaches to the Middle East market.

He commented that "there has been an erroneous impression so far that US goods are expensive. However, with current exchange rate fluctuations, our products are now much more price competitive in the Middle East. We are here to break the myth that American companies are not interested in the Middle East markets. Our presence in the show will not only promote goods from virtually every

region of the United States, but also demonstrate our desire to develop and strengthen the trading ties between the US and the Gulf countries."

Meanwhile, Egypt will also be represented at the show by a national group consisting of nine companies, most of them dealing in chocolate and confectionery items.

This is the first time that Egypt is sending an official group to the show. With the strengthening of ties between Egypt and the Arab world, it is expected that trade between them will also improve.

Another Middle Eastern country exhibiting for the first time at MEFEX and looking for new markets, is the Jordanian Ata Ali Group. The only hi-technology ice cream and confectionery factory in Jordan, the company is based in Amman and specialises in the production of traditional Arabic sweets and in a variety of ice creams.

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WORLD STOCK MARKETS

LONDON
(Alpha Stocks)

NAME	LAST	ICL	047.0
ABBEY LIFE	251/0	IMI	195/0
ALD LYONS	337/0	JAGUAR	329/0
AMSTRAD	142/0	LADBROKE	353/0
ARGTLL GP	187/0	LAND SECS	491/0
ASDA NFI	161/0	LAPORTE	377/0
A B FOODS	288/0	LASMO	302/0
		LEGAL+GEN	260/0
		LYONS BK	253/0
		LOWHRO	253/0
		LUCAS IND	600/0
		MAGNET	240/0
		MARKS+SP	171/0
		MAXWELL C	250/0
		NETAL BOX	185/0
		NEPC	467/0
		NILAND BK	406/0
		NEXT	267/0
		NTN FOODS	279/0
		P & O DFD	467/0
		PEARL	445/0
		PEARSON	698/0
		PILKINGTON	215/0
		PLESSEY	149/0
		PRUDENTIAL	208/0
		RACAL	304/0
		RANK NIS	350/0
		RANK ORG	625/0
		RCKITT+CO	780/0
		REDLAND	397/0
		REED	410/0
		RFL BK SC	340/0
		RHC GRP	425/0
		RT2 CORP	436/0
		RT2 CORP	436/0
		ROLLS ROY	125/0
		ROTHMAN B	402/0
		ROUNTREE	422/0
		ROYAL INS	395/0
		SAATCHI	418/0
		SAITSBURY	220/0
		SCOT+NEV	232/0
		SEARS	122/0
		SEDEWICK	216/0
		SNELL	105/0
		SMITH+NEPM	132/0
		STD CHART	521/0
		STC	228/0
		STORENCE	234/0
		SUN ALLIA	825/0
		TARHAC	222/0
		TATE+LE	800/0
		TESCO	151/0
		TWON CHI	553/0
		TRAF HSE	323/0
		TSB	108/0
		T+H	174/0
		TRUNISTE	220/0
		ULTRAMAR	65/0
		UNILEVER	490/0
		UNIGATE	282/0
		UT BISC	262/0
		UT MSPR	427/0
		WELLCO	403/0
		WELLDON	275/0
		WILLIS FB	230/0
		WOOLWORTH	270/0

LONDON
(Beta Stocks)

NAME	CLOSE	OPEN
A.B. ELECT	364/0	365/0
APV PLC	118/0	119/0
CANNON ST	254/0	253/0
CAP GROUP	203/0	205/0
CAP-RADIO	185/0	186/0
CARADON	292/0	290/0
CARLO EN	160/0	158/0
CARLESS C	105/0	105/0
CARLTON C	675/0	678/0
CATER ALL	340/0	340/0
CENTL ITV	561/0	560/0
CHATER CH	299/0	300/0
CHARTERHA	32/4	32/0
CHLORIDE	58/0	58/0
CHRISTIES	489/0	488/0
CINAS CHUR	105/0	104/0
U-CIFER	18/0	18/0
U-CLUFF	100/0	101/0
CLYDE PET	122/0	121/0
COALITE	321/0	322/0
COATES BR	358/0	360/0
CASE GP	54/0	53/0
COLLINS V	578/0	578/0
COLLINS A	455/0	458/0
CONTRL SEC	47/0	47/0
COLORRFS	235/0	235/0
COURTS FR	255/0	253/0
CI GROUP	43/0	44/0
COSTAIN G	274/0	275/0
CANTORS A	85/0	86/0
COMIE (T)	112/0	114/0
CREST INC	205/0	206/0
CRODA INT	187/0	188/0
CROWTHER	110/0	111/0
CRYSTALAT	151/0	151/0
DAREST JST	34/4	33/0
DAVIS JST	141/4	142/0
DANSON IN	212/0	211/0
DE LA RUE	400/0	400/0
DELUY U	249/0	249/0
DELUY U	108/0	108/0
DRG PLC	375/0	375/0
DRYDRA J	193/0	192/0
DRAYTON J	848/0	850/0
DRAYTON J	424/0	423/0
DRAYTON J	156/0	155/0
EAGLE TST	16/2	16/2
EAG TST	16/2	16/0
EDIN AMER	94/0	95/0
EDIR IT	147/0	147/0
U-ELDRGE	351/0	350/0
ELECTRA I	192/0	193/0
ELECTRON	189/0	189/0
ELEC RENT	98/0	98/0
ELLIS EVA	168/0	168/0
EMAP PLC	200/0	199/0
ELLIS GOL	60/0	60/0
EMPIRE ST	260/0	236/0
ETAN	259/0	258/0
EUKROTHER	312/0	312/0
EUKROTHER	269/0	268/0
EUKROTHER	19/0	19/0
EVERED HL	116/0	116/0
EUROPE GP	150/0	151/0
U-EXPLAR	31/4	32/0
FKI BARCK	127/0	127/0
FARNELL E	156/0	157/0
FORD HOUN	203/0	203/0
FENNER JN	163/0	163/0
FERGUSON	293/0	293/0
U-FIELDS M	130/0	131/0
FINE ARTS	232/0	232/0
FINLAN GP	77/0	77/0
FLEMING J	198/0	200/0
F & C PAC	114/0	115/0
FIRLAY J	93/0	93/0
FIRST LEI	518/0	520/0
FIRST NAT	233/0	234/0
FIRST SCOT	382/0	382/0
FITCH LOV	264/0	265/0
FORDOL IT	101/0	101/0
FOSCO NI	206/0	207/0
FLNG.FE-I	168/0	168/0
FLNG.AN-I	113/0	114/0
FLNG.MER	162/4	163/0
FLNG.OSEA	197/0	197/0
F R GROUP	277/0	277/0
U-FLOYD O	29/0	30/0
FRESHBAKE	92/0	92/0
U-FORD H	85/0	86/0
GEEST PLC	243/0	243/0
GEI INTL	117/0	118/0
GERRO+MAT	305/0	305/0
GVIT ORIE	241/0	244/0
GESTYMER	187/0	185/0
GLYMVED	430/0	430/0
GVIT ATIL	121/0	122/0
GVIT STRT	208/0	208/0
GREYCOAT	313/0	313/0
GRNPTV	47/0	47/0
GRNPTV	241/0	241/0
GRNPTV	109/0	110/0
GT PLINO	291/0	291/0
NT UNIVL	663/0	650/0
GRNML NTL	178/0	178/0
GRN.KING	489/0	488/0
GPE PLC	82/0	83/0
NTV GROUP	252/0	251/0
HALL (M)	123/0	123/0
NAMROBS I	198/0	198/0
NRSM+CRSF	556/0	555/0
U-INTNRN	23/4	23/0
HEATN (CE)	382/0	383/0
HELENE LN	41/0	42/0
INDRNS GR	349/0	340/0
HPVTH.CRN	224/0	223/0
NEID-STAR	119/0	120/0
NEYMOOD U	271/0	272/0

LONDON
(Beta Stocks)

NAME	CLOSE	OPEN
BULNER HP	154/0	155/0
BURGESS	224/0	224/0
CRH PLC	115/0	115/0
U-CPU CEN	90/0	89/0
CALEDONIA	341/0	342/0
CALOR GRP	557/0	557/0
CANNON ST	254/0	253/0
CAP GROUP	203/0	205/0
CAP-RADIO	185/0	186/0
CARADON	292/0	290/0
CARLO EN	160/0	158/0
CARLESS C	105/0	105/0
CARLTON C	675/0	678/0
CATER ALL	340/0	340/0
CENTL ITV	561/0	560/0
CHATER CH	299/0	300/0
CHARTERHA	32/4	32/0
CHLORIDE	58/0	58/0
CHRISTIES	489/0	488/0
CINAS CHUR	105/0	104/0
U-CIFER	18/0	18/0
U-CLUFF	100/0	101/0
CLYDE PET	122/0	121/0
COALITE	321/0	322/0
COATES BR	358/0	360/0
CASE GP	54/0	53/0
COLLINS V	578/0	578/0
COLLINS A	455/0	458/0
CONTRL SEC	47/0	47/0
COLORRFS	235/0	235/0
COURTS FR	255/0	253/0
CI GROUP	43/0	44/0
COSTAIN G	274/0	275/0
CANTORS A	85/0	86/0
COMIE (T)	112/0	114/0
CREST INC	205/0	206/0
CRODA INT	187/0	188/0
CROWTHER	110/0	111/0
CRYSTALAT	151/0	151/0
DAREST JST	34/4	33/0
DAVIS JST	141/4	142/0
DANSON IN	212/0	211/0
DE LA RUE	400/0	400/0
DELUY U	249/0	249/0
DELUY U	108/0	108/0
DRG PLC	375/0	375/0
DRYDRA J	193/0	192/0
DRAYTON J	848/0	850/0
DRAYTON J	424/0	423/0
DRAYTON J	156/0	155/0
EAGLE TST	16/2	16/2
EAG TST	16/2	16/0
EDIN AMER	94/0	95/0
EDIR IT	147/0	147/0
U-ELDRGE	351/0	350/0
ELECTRA I	192/0	193/0
ELECTRON	189/0	189/0
ELEC RENT	98/0	98/0
ELLIS EVA	168/0	168/0
EMAP PLC	200/0	199/0
ELLIS GOL	60/0	60/0
EMPIRE ST	260/0	236/0
ETAN	259/0	258/0
EUKROTHER	312/0	312/0
EUKROTHER	269/0	268/0
EUKROTHER	19/0	19/0
EVERED HL	116/0	116/0
EUROPE GP	150/0	151/0
U-EXPLAR	31/4	32/0
FKI BARCK	127/0	127/0
FARNELL E	156/0	157/0
FORD HOUN	203/0	203/0
FENNER JN	163/0	163/0
FERGUSON	293/0	293/0
U-FIELDS M	130/0	131/0
FINE ARTS	232/0	232/0
FINLAN GP	77/0	77/0
FLEMING J	198/0	200/0
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HELENE LN	41/0	42/0
INDRNS GR	349/0	340/0
HPVTH.CRN	224/0	223/0
NEID-STAR	119/0	120/0
NEYMOOD U	271/0	272/0

LONDON
(Beta Stocks)

63/0	HOLMES PR	1
63/0	U-HUGHES	10
75/0	IBSTX, JSC	10
86/0	ICEZ.FZ.FD	10
95/0	IMPT INTL	3
98/0	INCPANCE	6
70/0	INDIPOINT	4
50/0	INTL.BJ.CH	1
52/0	INVEN.CO	21
58/0	INSTR.CA	31
32/0	INTL.CTY.SB	18
36/0	JNSN.MATH	2
18/0	KALON	3
21/0	KENOT, SRK	26
22/0	KETSON	7
11/0	KLART, BNS	3
53/0	KLEIN OS	18
78/0	KWIKFIT N	18
53/0	KWIKSAFE	3
88/0	U-KUNICK	3
75/0	LDM, INT.C	27
75/0	LAING PJ	21
75/0	LAING(JJ)	27
74/0	LAING(JJA)	27
75/0	LAIND HO	25
14/0	LAMONTSU	30
16/0	LAWRICE, V	12
10/0	LEIGH INT	19
1/0	LEX SERVICE	4
15/0	LOGICA	28
2/0	LDM-HCNST	27
2/0	LDM-HET	13
9/0	LDM INV T	3
9/0	LDRM OPJ	15
13/0	LDR,UTJO, I	3
75/0	LOWELL NO	27
75/0	LYNTER PA	32
10/0	LUN-BONAR	30
10/0	LUN-CHAM	56
6/2	LOWE HOME	34
16/0	LUT MOSS	14
7/0	M-G GROUP	29
6/0	M.K.ELEC	68
17/0	MACHRY G	33
13/0	NACTH+STN	47
13/0	NICKLE.PL	30
18/0	NIENFLD, BV	14
18/0	NICAPLE	10
19/0	PARLINE	11
14/0	PARSONS	20
18/0	PARSONS	11
2/0	METEC (NCC	18
2/0	METZIES J	35
2/0	MERCANT, TS	13
16/0	U-MRRYDAN	38
16/0	METALRAB	8
16/0	METER INT	36
16/0	U-MICROPT	3

Dollar and shares firm in quiet trade Tax unthinkable to meet deficit: UAE

LONDON, Feb 16, (AP): The US dollar was mostly firmer in Europe today while the gold price varied.

Foreign exchange dealers said markets were quiet, with some West Germany markets closed because of Carnival festivities.

Dealers said there was no definite trend for the dollar ahead of the publication of the US trade figures.

Late rates for the dollar in Europe compared with Monday's late rates:

— 1.7120 West German marks, up from 1.7085
— 1.4038 Swiss francs, down from 1.4040
— 5.7815 French francs, up from 5.7705
— 1.9200 Dutch guilders, up from 1.9180
— 1.2600 Italian lire, up from 1.2575

— 1.2687 Canadian dollars, up from 1.2658

The British pound fell to \$1.7440 from \$1.7455.

Earlier, the dollar closed in Tokyo at 130.50 Japanese yen, down from 131.00 yen late Monday.

In London today, the dollar traded at 130.30 yen.

Hong Kong markets were closed for Chinese New Year.

The key 30-year bond fell 27/32 to 103-31/32. Its yield rose to 8.52 per cent, against Friday's closing at 8.43.

"This is just a carryover from Friday's selling," said one lender. "The market's down on the realisation that the Federal Reserve is not going to ease, that the economy's stronger than people thought, and that the market went up too fast and now it's time to consolidate."

Gold futures for delivery in April fell one dollar an ounce to \$447.70 cutting into a five-dollar advance made prior to the holiday weekend. Analysts said the selling pressure was not organised, coming mainly from local traders, with dealer buying helping to shore up prices.

US markets were closed on Monday for the President's Day holiday.

Value

Wall Street derived little direction from Europe, where the London stock market was little changed. The FTSE index of the value of 100 blue-chip shares fell 3.2 points to 1,736.0.

"Sometimes I get the impression that fund managers have hidden their telephones in a desk drawer and gone away for a long holiday," a London stockbroker said.

Paris shares were mixed, with the 50-share bourse indicator up 0.89 per cent. In Zurich the All-Share Swiss index rose 5.8 points to 814.6.

In Frankfurt, where the bourse closes early for Carnival, the Boersen-Zeitung 30-share index opened 3.17 points higher at 283.08.

"People are in a Carnival mood and are buying," a dealer said.

Tokyo's 225-share Nikkei index rose 138.19 points, or 0.57 per cent, to 24,345.66. The advance was the market's fourth in a row. The index climbed 225.53 points on Monday.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index closed 26.29 points higher at 2,328.04, while Singapore shares also rose. Sydney's All-Ordinaries index gained 5.7 points to 1,215.6.

ABU DHABI, Feb 16, (Reuters): The United Arab Emirates (UAE) said today it might issue government bonds to help shore up its 1988 budget deficit but ruled out income tax as unthinkable.

Finance Ministry Undersecretary Naser Al Nuweis told Reuters the projected budget deficit was somewhat lower than 1987's 2.76 billion dirhams (\$745 million).

"We have presented proposals to the cabinet and the Federal Supreme Council to offset the budget deficit, but they do not include any plans to impose income taxes... that's unthinkable," he said.

The proposals take into consideration many possibilities, like raising services fees, issuing bonds and domestic borrowing," Nuweis said.

"The oil price crash in 1986 adversely affected the budget, but now prices have improved

above \$15 a barrel," he said. "That will automatically raise revenues of the oil emirates and consequently their contributions to the budget."

The UAE's budget is financed by the seven emirates making up the nation, with each contributing half its income. The bulk comes from the two richest, Abu Dhabi and Dubai, whose oil production accounts for more than 97 per cent of the total.

Kuwait has already launched a government bond programme. Saudi Arabia, which last month scrapped plans to tax foreign workers after a storm of protest, is planning to offer up to 30 billion riyals of bonds on the domestic market during 1988 in its first major fund-raising exercise in 25 years.

Meanwhile, the International Petroleum Investment Corporation (Ipic), a wholly-owned undertaking of the government of Abu Dhabi, is seeking joint

investment opportunities with companies in certain industrialised countries aimed at securing markets.

Jua'an Salem, Ipic president and undersecretary at the Abu Dhabi Finance Department, said that "it would be more feasible to become owners of some refining and distribution outlets abroad to complement our petroleum strategy."

He said that investments in oil-related facilities would help oil producers market their products in industrialised countries and lessen their dependence on contract sales.

Oil-producing Arab states in the Gulf could benefit from Kuwait's successful experience in marketing its crude through its overseas facilities, especially at times of crisis, he added.

He noted that marketing opportunities in developing and Arab countries were limited.

while those in the United States and various West European nations were "still open" and free of "strict and prejudiced restrictions."

He said that Ipic recently bought 10 per cent of the shares of the Cepco oil company of Spain. The final endorsement of the Abu Dhabi and Spanish governments was now being awaited.

According to Salem, the current world financial situation had created "massive" investment opportunities in oil-related projects.

Prices

The October crash at the New York stock market resulted in "pulling down" prices thus making investments "more feasible," he added.

Ipic was set up in 1984 by the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, the government of the emirate and the Abu Dhabi Investment Company.

Sheikh Ahmed optimistic about Kuwait economy

THE board chairman of the Burgan Bank Sheikh Ahmed Abdal Al Ahmed Al Sabah said yesterday he was optimistic about the country's economic performance in 1988 as the balance of payment is showing a surplus while the state budget appears to be in a good position.

He said government spending during the current fiscal year has gone beyond KD3.15 billion, some 10 per cent increase on the figures of the fiscal 1986-87.

Sheikh Ahmed said the surge in spending was likely to translate into a remarkable economic activity, especially in the trade and construction sectors which he said react swiftly to positive changes.

Gloomy

But the Sheikh's forecasts were more gloomy about world economy as he expected recession to creep in.

On the stock markets crash of last October, Sheikh Ahmed said



Sheikh Ahmed

the repercussions would not be as bad as many had expected because central banks acted

promptly to keep enough liquidity in the international markets.

Asked about the US economy, he said there were indications that the American gross national product would be in the minus in the first quarter of the year. A modest growth would follow before the November presidential elections, the banker predicted.

He said the US administration was unlikely to take any major financial or monetary policy changes in an election year to cut the twin deficit.

Against this background the dollar would possibly come under further pressures, he said.

On the Burgan Bank domestic plan, Sheikh Ahmed spoke about opening new branches and offering new banking services and more active involvement in financing economic ventures.

Recruiting and training national personnel is one of the

bank's 1988 objectives, he added. The Burgan Bank, according to its chief executive, emerged almost unscathed from the havoc of the world money equities market as it had constantly reassessed its portfolios and got rid, on time, of booms.

Cash

The chairman declined to be specific when asked if a conservative investor should now stash his cash in a pillow or if there were some secure investment opportunities.

He said there were several factors that could determine where an investor should put his money. These, he said, include whether the investor was after long-term investment of mere speculative deals in addition to personal, economic and political aspects.

He reaffirmed the basic investment rule that the bigger the profit the less secure the investment is and vice versa.

Heavy foreign oil shipments threaten US oil prices

NEW YORK, Feb 16, (Reuters): A surge of fuel imports over the past few weeks threatens to push crude oil prices in the United States below \$16 a barrel, a level not seen in two months, analysts and traders said yesterday.

West Texas Intermediate, the main American grade of crude oil, has dropped 60 cents a barrel last week alone, including a 40-cent decline on Friday. It is now priced at a two-week low of \$16.75 a barrel for delivery in March.

The United States imports a third of its oil needs, but the supplies come in a steady manner. When shipments are accelerated as they have been recently prices come under pressure.

Prices

In January more than 65 per cent of North Sea crude oil shipments went to North America, according to BP Development, a unit of British Petroleum Co. PLC, which operates a main terminal in the Shetland Islands.

Oil traders said while most of the crude oil was bought by one company, the fact that it might be put on the market at any time pressures prices.



The UAE Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Mana Said Al Oteiba (left) talks with Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita at the latter's official residence in Tokyo yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Khorafi stresses NBK's investment strategy



MOHAMMED Abdul Mohsin Al Khorafi, the chairman of the National Bank of Kuwait (NBK), said yesterday he was optimistic about the country's economic performance in 1988 as the balance of payment is showing a surplus while the state budget appears to be in a good position.

He said government spending during the current fiscal year has gone beyond KD3.15 billion, some 10 per cent increase on the figures of the fiscal 1986-87.

Sheikh Ahmed said the surge in spending was likely to translate into a remarkable economic activity, especially in the trade and construction sectors which he said react swiftly to positive changes.

But the Sheikh's forecasts were more gloomy about world economy as he expected recession to creep in.

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Recruiting and training national personnel is one of the

Saudi share flotation to test investment appetite

RIYADH, Feb 16, (Reuters): Saudi Arabia is poised to launch its first major public share flotation in several years in a key test of the economy's ability to generate funds for investment.

In the next few weeks founders of the Taiba Company for Real Estate Development, formed to channel investment into the Islamic holy city of Medina, will ask the Saudi public for an initial 300 million riyals (\$80 million) in return for equity in the company.

But bankers say the flotation comes at a difficult time for an economy only just starting to pull out of recession and could be crowded out by the Saudi government's borrowing plans.

Bonds
This year's budget is the most austere since government oil revenues began declining in the early 1980s and for the first time the government is planning to issue medium-term bonds to help finance a projected 35.9 billion riyal (\$9.6 billion) deficit.

The biggest threat to the flotation is the uncertainty surrounding the bonds," said one financial source.

He said the government's borrowing, its first major fund raising in 25 years, was likely to crowd out other investments.

Share flotation over the last 35 years have raised less than 50 billion riyals (\$13.3 billion) and now banks are being asked to raise up to 30 billion (\$8 billion) in bonds in less than one year, he added.

To add to the problem, the Saudi government has yet to announce when the first bonds will be launched or for how much.

"Only when it makes some clear-cut statements about its intentions, will there be some stability," one banker said.

The Taiba flotation is being handled by the Consulting Centre for Finance and Investment which says the offering will begin in the first week of March.

Taiba was formed to help the government control the flow of private development funds into Medina, Islam's second holiest city. In addition to real estate, founders hope to invest in agricultural, commercial, industrial and financial ventures.

Historically, no two Saudi companies have gone to the market at the same time and bankers say the Taiba offering is likely to mean another major issue in the works — for Al Rajhi Co for Currency Exchange and Commerce — will be delayed.

Plan to set up joint venture firm to conduct drilling operations

HOUSTON, February 16, James Fisher and Sons Public Limited Company and Zapata Off-Shore Company have agreed to form a joint venture company to conduct offshore drilling operations in the United Kingdom, it was announced last week.

We are very pleased to announce the agreement to form this joint venture. It will allow us to pool the expertise of two leading firms to better serve the needs of the offshore drilling market in the United Kingdom," Thomas H. Bowersox, Zapata off-shore Chairman and CEO, said.

The Zapata off-shore chairman said the first two contracts for the joint venture are expected to involve the semisubmersible rig Zapata Uglund, which will work for Phillips Petroleum and the jackup rig Bonanza, which will work for Ranger Oil.

Smith Rea Energy Associates Limited of Canterbury, England, acted for Zapata off-shore in identifying a joint venture partner in the United Kingdom and assisted in the negotiations with James Fisher and Sons, Bowersox said.

Headquartered in Barrow-in-Furness, England, James Fisher and Sons, established in 1847, are shipowners, shipmanagers and port operators operating worldwide a highly specialised and diversified owned and managed fleet of 61 vessels.

James Fisher and Sons, through their wholly owned subsidiary Coe Metals Shipping, is actively involved in the UK and other markets in offshore exploration, undertaking geophysical and hydrographical surveys, geotechnical studies, shallow sampling and deep rock coring.

Oil prices static in sluggish activity

LONDON, Feb 16, (Reuters): Crude oil prices were static to very slightly softer on the international spot markets today and trading activity remained at low ebb, traders and brokers said.

The Institute of Petroleum Week in London, when traders from the world over meet for a round of social events including the institute's annual dinner, discouraged trading activity.

The softer tone reflected good physical crude supply on both sides of the Atlantic.

Towards the close of European trade, North sea Brent, the most widely traded international crude, was five cents lower at 15.60 dollars a barrel. Dubai, the key Middle East grade, was unchanged at \$15.00. The benchmark US crude, West Texas Intermediate, was 20 cents lower than on Friday, at \$16.70, not having traded Monday due to the President's Day holiday in the United States.

GOVERNMENT TENDERS

THE tenders summarised below are invited by the Central Tenders Committee on behalf of Government Ministries and other concerned authorities. The relevant documents may be obtained from the office of the Central Tenders Committee during office hours against payment of non-refundable fees as shown therein. Unless otherwise stipulated all relevant offers shall remain valid for a period of 90 days with effect from the closing date.

Tender No. PA/SH.A.M. 28-87/88
Tender's Internal No. 653
Concerned Party: Public Authority for Applied Education & Training

Requirements: Construction, completion & maintenance of computer room in girls & boys Commercial Science College, Health Science College (Boys), Communication & Aviation Centre & Diwan General Building.
Relevant Fee: KD 50/-
Initial Guarantee: 5% of offer's value
Closing Date: 12:00 noon, Sunday, 27.3.88

N.B.: This tender is open for contractors classified in 4th Category of Construction Works.
Tender No. PA/SH.A.M. 25-87/88
Tender's Internal No. 652/88
Concerned Party: Public Authority for Applied Education & Training

Requirements: Construction, completion & maintenance of car park in Technology Studies College — Shuwaikh
Relevant Fee: KD 50/-
Initial Guarantee: 5% of offer's value
Closing Date: 12:00 noon, Sunday, 27.3.88

N.B.: This tender is open for contractors classified in 3rd & 4th categories of Road works.
Tender No. MEW/22/141-87/88
Tender's Internal No. 654/88
Concerned Party: Ministry of Elec. & Water

Requirements: Maintenance works of fire fighting water tanks in 20 Sub-stations.
Relevant Fee: KD 20/-
Initial Guarantee: 2-1/2% of offer's value
Closing Date: 12:00 noon, Sunday, 27.3.88

Tender No. MEW/22/124-87/88
Tender's Internal No. 661/88
Concerned Party: Ministry of Elec. & Water

Requirements: Annual maintenance works & follow up of Agriculture works in Doha Water Distribution Complex & Ardiya Towers Yard.
Relevant Fee: KD 50/-
Initial Guarantee: 1/2% of offer's value
Closing Date: 12:00 noon, Sunday, 27.3.88

1. Zalzala Agriculture Services & Cont. Co.
2. Green Palace Flowers Est.
3. Kuwait Gardens Organisation & Maintenance Co.
4. Agriculture Development Co.
5. Food & Agriculture Co.

N.B.: A pre-tender meeting shall be held on Monday, 29.2.88 at 10.00 a.m. in Water Est. Operation & Maintenance Section — Water Department to acquaint with the nature of work.

Tender No. MT/27/87
Tender's Internal No. 643/88
Concerned Party: Petrochemical

Requirements: Supply of heat exchangers
Relevant Fee: KD 20/-
Initial Guarantee: 2% of offer's value
Closing Date: 12:00 noon, Sunday, 27.3.88

Tender No. MT/22/87
Tender's Internal No. 643/88
Concerned Party: Petrochemical

Requirements: Supply of low voltage electrical key board
Relevant Fee: KD 20/-
Initial Guarantee: 2% of offer's value
Closing Date: 12:00 noon, Sunday, 27.3.88

Tender No. D 2773
Tender's Internal No. 664/88
Concerned Party: Kuwait Oil Co.

Requirements: Line Break Isolating Ball Valves
Relevant Fee: KD 20/-
Initial Guarantee: 2% of offer's value
Closing Date: 12:00 noon, Sunday, 27.3.88

Tender No. C.7/2820
Tender's Internal No. 665/88
Concerned Party: Kuwait National Petroleum Co.

Requirements: Repairing & diversion of marine products pipelines & stands in Petroleum Products Piz — Shuwaikh
Relevant Fee: KD 50/-
Initial Guarantee: 2-1/2% of offer's value
Closing Date: 12:00 noon, Sunday, 27.3.88

Qualified tenderers:
1. Ali Al Sayegh Conts. Co.
2. Al Dar Trdg. & Contg. Co.
3. Consolidated Contractors Co. (Conco)
4. Marine & Petroleum Contg. lot.
5. Ahmad Ghiloum Riza Ashiknani Est.
6. Khalifa Duaji Al Daboo & Bros
7. Khalid Ali Khurafi & Bros Co.
8. Ali Al Ghanim Est.
9. Kuwait Shipbuilding & Repair Yard Co.
10. Int. Marine Construction Co.

Requirements: Supply of heat exchangers
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Initial Guarantee: 2% of offer's value
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Requirements: Line Break Isolating Ball Valves
Relevant Fee: KD 20/-
Initial Guarantee: 2% of offer's value
Closing Date: 12:00 noon, Sunday, 27.3.88

Tender No. C.7/2820
Tender's Internal No. 665/88
Concerned Party: Kuwait National Petroleum Co.

Requirements: Repairing & diversion of marine products pipelines & stands in Petroleum Products Piz — Shuwaikh
Relevant Fee: KD 50/-
Initial Guarantee: 2-1/2% of offer's value
Closing Date: 12:00 noon, Sunday, 27.3.88

Qualified tenderers:
1. Ali Al Sayegh Conts. Co.
2. Al Dar Trdg. & Contg. Co.
3. Consolidated Contractors Co. (Conco)
4. Marine & Petroleum Contg. lot.
5. Ahmad Ghiloum Riza Ashiknani Est.
6. Khalifa Duaji Al Daboo & Bros
7. Khalid Ali Khurafi & Bros Co.
8. Ali Al Ghanim Est.
9. Kuwait Shipbuilding & Repair Yard Co.
10. Int. Marine Construction Co.

N.B.: A pre-tender meeting shall be held at 10.00 a.m. on Sunday, 13.3.88 in Shuwaikh Refinery to visit the site and to acquaint with nature of work.

Note: The company representative shall not be allowed to attend the preliminary obligatory meeting if the bidder fails to notify KNPC with the names and designations of his nominees at least 2 days before the date of the said meeting.

Tender No. PA/SH.A.M. 19-87/88
Tender's Internal No. 449/87
Concerned Party: Public Authority for Applied Education & Training

Requirements: Transport & installation works of prefabricated houses and supply of electricity to the same.
Relevant Fee: KD 20/-
Initial Guarantee: 5% of offer's value
Closing Date: 12:00 noon, Sunday, 20.3.88

Qualified tenderers:
1. Works & Building Est.
2. Kuwait Industry Centre Co.
3. Abdul Latif Thupian Al-Ghanim Prefab. Houses Factory
4. Kuwait Burhan Trdg. & Contg. Co.
5. Abdul Hameed Youssef Al Issa

16. Moh'd Abdul Mohsen Al Khoraifi
7. Warba Construction Centre
8. Al Hadeetha Trdg. & Contg. Co.
9. Gulf Construction & Trdg. Co.
10. Kuwait Trdg. Factories
11. Al Sanaa Gen. Contg. Co.
12. Al Asfour Inter. Co.
13. Al Rabiah Trdg. Est.

Tender No. MEW/22/141/33/87/88
Tender's Internal No. 663/88
Concerned Party: Ministry of Elec. & Water

Requirements: Replacement of asbestos fresh & brackish water out to ductile in Baid Al Qar area.
Relevant Fee: KD 50/-
Initial Guarantee: 2-1/2% of offer's value
Closing Date: 12:00 noon, Tuesday, 29.3.88

Qualified tenderers:
1. Moh'd Abdul Mohsen Al Khoraifi
2. Consolidated Contractors Co. (Conco)
3. Kuwait Burhan Co.
4. Al Marwa Trdg. & Contg. Co.
5. Mustaf Al Saleh & Sons Co.
6. United Gulf Construction Co.
7. Combined Group Trdg. & Contg. Co.

Tender No. MEW/22/141/33/87/88
Tender's Internal No. 660/88
Concerned Party: Ministry of Elec. & Water

Requirements: Construction, completion & maintenance of chlorine injection station at Rawdaton
Relevant fee: KD 50/-
Initial guarantee: 2 1/2 per cent of offer's value
Closing date: 12:00 noon Sunday 27.3.88

Qualified tenderers:
1. United Gulf Construction Co.
2. Al Marwa Trdg. & Contg. Co.
3. Kuwait Burhan Co.
4. Ali Al Sayegh Contg. Co.
5. Al Hamra Kuwait Co.
6. Mustaf Al Saleh & Sons Group
Tender No. PA/SH.A.M. 19-87/88
Tender's Internal No. 449/87
Concerned Party: Ministry of Education

Requirements: Supply & installation of theatre chairs
Relevant fee: KD 20/-
Initial guarantee: 20% of offer's value
Closing date: 12:00 noon Tuesday 29.3.88

Tender No. P.A.C. 19/87
Tender's Internal No. 667/88
Concerned Party: Public Authority for Civil Information

Requirements: Supply & installation of microfilm appliances
Relevant fee: KD 20/-
Initial guarantee: 5% of offer's value
Closing date: 12:00 noon Sunday 27.3.88

Tender No. MEW/22/141/33/87/88
Tender's Internal No. 662/88
Concerned Party: Ministry of Elec. & Water

Requirements: Maintenance of street lighting equipment in Western Area (B)
Relevant fee: KD 20/-
Initial guarantee: KD 3000/-
Closing date: 12:00 noon Tuesday 29.3.88

Qualified tenderers:
1. Mudian & Abdul Majeed Trdg. & Contg. Co.
2. Salem Moh'd Al Nusif Electrical Co.
3. Kulech Trdg. & Electrical Contg. Co.
4. Kaifan Trdg. Co.

5. Al Khorafi Electrical Works Co.
6. Electrical Projects Co.
7. Al Yaqrah Trdg. & Electrical & Mechanical Contg. Est.
8. National & German Electrical & Electronic Services Co.
9. National Mechanical & Electrical Works Co. Ltd.
10. Yousuf Ahmad Al Ghanim & Sons Co.
11. Al Muhaleb Trdg. & Contg. Co.
12. Ali International Est.
13. Fadden Electrical Equipment & Contg. Co.
14. Al Amer Electrical Co.
15. Al Rabiah Lighting Co.
16. Abdulla Hamad Al-Saqer & Bros.
17. Al Soula Trdg. & Contg. Est.
18. Motocolor Gen. Contg. Est.
19. Bader Al-Mulla & Bros. Co.
20. Electrical Contg. Co. Ltd.
Tender No. 3436/88
Tender's Internal No. 569/88
Concerned Party: Kuwait National Petroleum Co.

Requirements: Supply of 2 vessels for Monothylamine — V-02-05/V-02-55
Relevant fee: KD 30/-
Initial guarantee: 2 1/2% of offer's value
Closing date: 12:00 noon, Tuesday, 29.3.1988

Qualified tenderers: (in brackets local agent)
1. Kora Heavy Industries (Abdul Aziz Abdul Mohsen Al Rashid)
2. Sembawang Engineering (Pie) Ltd. (Petroleum Services Co.)
3. Harrick Engineering Pte Ltd. (United Shipping, Trdg. & Contg. Services Co.)
4. The Corporation (Warba National Contg. Co.)
5. Mitsubishi Heavy Ind. Ltd. (Three Diamonds Trading Co.)
6. Kobe Steel Ltd. (Mustafa & Majeed Trdg. Co.)
7. The Japan Steel Works Ltd. (Al Thuwaini Trading Co.)
8. Ishikawajima Harima Heavy (Petroleum Services Co.)
9. Hitachi Zosen Corporation (Petroleum Services Co.)
10. Grimbbergen Alphen A/D Riwa BV (Al Mazzeed Trading Co.)
11. Bader Ruch Breda B.V. (Burgan Equipment Est.)
12. R.C.S.P.A. (Al Duaji Engineering Co.)
13. Indust. Meccaniche Sordellato (Bader Al Sayed Hashim Al Gharabally)
14. I.C.M. Industria Costruzioni (United Shipping, Trdg. & Contg. Services

IN FOCUS

The world today



A CALLIGRAPHER paints new year messages symbolising prosperity and good luck which were on sale to passers-by at a street corner in Hong Kong yesterday. (Rauter wirephoto)



PUBLISHER Robert Maxwell tells reporters that he was prepared to make an acquisition in the US but added that the candidate was not McGraw-Hill Inc. as speculated. Maxwell was speaking at a news conference at the launch of his biography 'Maxwell' written by Joe Haines. (Rauter wirephoto)



PRESIDENT Mauno Koivisto, a former dockyard worker who has led Finland into an era of political stability and economic prosperity celebrates his election to a second six-year term with his wife Tellervo on Monday. (Rauter wirephoto)



FORMER soldiers and officials of the South Vietnamese government defeated in 1975 march out of Nam Ha re-education camp near Hanoi last Friday after their release by Vietnam's communist government. Hanoi announced last week it has amnestied 1,014 such re-education camp inmates for today's Lunar New Year celebrations. (Rauter wirephoto)



HUSSEIN DERSIA, 24, a Palestinian refugee in the Tuikarem refugee camp, holds up three broken clubs and a tear gas canister on Monday amid ransacked furniture in his house. Dersia claims the house was ransacked by Israeli soldiers while the Tuikarem refugee camp was under curfew during the last 14 days. The curfew was lifted Sunday afternoon. (Rauter wirephoto)



A SERGEANT of the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment gives assistance to his colleague who fell unconscious during the welcoming ceremony of the regiment's return to Hong Kong yesterday after a departure of 145 years. The regiment which had a Chinese dragon on its emblem arrived here on the eve of the Year of the Dragon. (Rauter wirephoto)



SMOKE billows out of the Library of the Soviet Academy of Sciences after a fire erupted in the main academic book depository in Moscow on Sunday. The fire burned most of the night and well into the following day. (Rauter wirephoto)



SANDINISTA leaders bear the coffin of Nora Astorga, Nicaragua's Ambassador to the UN, following a funeral mass in Managua on Monday. Astorga, who was famous for her actions regarding the Nicaraguan Revolution, died of cancer. At left is Bayardo Arce of the Sandinista Directorate and at right is President Daniel Ortega. (Rauter wirephoto)



BRITISH Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe (left) smiles as an aide (centre) gives him a translation of Mikhail Gorbachev's words as the Soviet leader welcomes him for talks in the Great Catherine's Hall of the Kremlin in Moscow yesterday. (Rauter wirephoto)



ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL: Presidential candidates (left to right) Gary Hart, Pat Robertson, George Bush and Bob Dole make their last bid for votes in the nation's first primary election in New Hampshire yesterday. Republicans George Bush and Bob Dole said they expected good news yesterday after voters in the campaign season's first presidential primary made their choices. Bush outpolled Dole 11-6 in the midnight balloting, with other Republicans getting a few stray votes. The vice-president threw all the resources he could muster into his bid to arrest Dole's week-long surge that started in Iowa. Former television evangelist Pat Robertson has had to deal with a tempest that arose over his claim that the Soviet Union has offensive nuclear missiles in Cuba. The administration of President Ronald Reagan denied the claim, and later Monday Robertson said he had been asking a question, not making an assertion. Gary Hart, who dropped out of the race for seven months last year, is far back in the race. (Rauter wirephoto)

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

MARKET PLACE

ACCOMMODATION

Available

FARWANIYA, behind Holiday Inn, 1 room for a bachelor to share with a family in a two bedroom flat. Bus routes, 21, 22. Rent KD60 negotiable. Tel. 4743399. (AT4-41008-2)

JABRIYA, studio apartments ready for occupation immediately. Bus routes 19, 18, 37. Rent KD90. Tel. Tony, 5330271. (AT4-41022-3)

SHAMIYA, accommodation available for two spinsters/bachelors to share with a Catholic family, with food. Close to main road. KD50. Tel. 2443353/2443553. (AT4-41028-3)

KUWAIT City, near Sheraton Hotel, Fahd Al Salem Street, one room sharing accommodation available with a Catholic family. Tel. Agnello, 2414725, after 5 pm. (AT4-41015-3)

SALWA, House-196, Block-7 behind Iraqi shop. One big room with water, electricity and kitchen for a family/bachelors with an Indian family. Rent KD50. Tel. Mohammad, 5611243. (AT5-41038-3)

KUWAIT City, Al Mishan building, ground floor, door No 4, near Sheraton and very close to Roman Catholic Church, accommodation for bachelors. Contact Al Othman Jewellery Shop, behind GPO. (AT5-41045-3)

KUWAIT City, Sharq, for one Indian Muslim bachelor, non-smoker, to share with two bachelors. Rent KD35. Tel. 2445561, 6-10 pm. (AT4-41007-3)

KUWAIT City, Qibla near GPO, one room with water and electricity for bachelors only, to share with a family. Tel. 2401610. (AT5-41040-3)

For Rent

MISHRAF, first-floor, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, dining and sitting room, private entrance. Rent KD350. Tel. 5385176, 2-5 pm. (AT4-41009-3)

BAYAN, in an excellent area, 2 independent, fully furnished blocks in a villa, plus multi-heq, central AC and tele line. Tel. 9021074, 5615125, 5653456. (AT3-40995-3)

MISHRAF, 2 storey 4 bedroom villa with a beautiful garden and attached extra 3 room quarters, curtains, carpets and irrigation system, for sale. Rent KD 650. Tel. 5382129, 9 am - 12 noon & 5-7 pm. (AT5-41047-3)

SALMIYA, opp. petrol station, 3 bedroom flat with tele. Price for furniture negotiable. Rent KD 150. Tel. Maheesh, 2412588, 5630757. (AT5-Miss-TM-2)

RUMATHIYA, 2 big bedrooms with balconies and built-in cupboards, sitting room, kitchen, bathroom, on 1st floor of a villa. Rent KD 120 with water and electricity. Tel. Anshad, 5330880, 9 am - 9 pm. (AT5-41046-3)

SALMIYA, single bedroom flat between Salmiya junior and senior schools with tele, ready for occupation from April 1, tele. 5655715. (AT4-41019-3)

FOR SALE

Furniture

AMERICAN made 7-seater sofa set with rust coloured velvet type upholstery. KD150, bunkbed made of pine wood, KD25. Tel. M. Islam, 5317598, after 5.30 pm. (AT5-41029-2)

GERMAN double bedroom set, big fridge, dining table, German wall unit, gas cylinders, ironing board etc. Tel. S.R. Ahmad, 3721410, 4-9 pm. (AT5-41033-2)

Computers

COMMODORE 64 with colour monitor, 1541 disk drive, MP803 dot matrix printer with printshop, 1520 printer plotter, 4 colours. Koolpa pad for drawing and printing and joysticks. Tel. Mac, 5385425, 4-8 pm. (AT4-41011-3)

Cars

NISSAN Skyline 24 GT coupe 1982, one owner from new. Reg up to 30 Nov. 88, regularly serviced, in very good condition. KD800. Tel. Mr. Edwardes, 5749023 4-8 after 2 pm 4833763 (C). (AT5-41025-3)

DODGE Aries 2.2 1981, manual gearbox, insured till 89, used as a second car. Owner leaving Kuwait. KD450 ono. Tel. Neil, 3727689/90/81 ext. 207. (AT3-41006-3)

G.M.C. "Jimmy" 1979, fully automatic, full-time 4x4. KD700. Tel. Mr. Rudolf Doom, 2411499, 5752675. (AT6-40948-6)

DODGE Ramcharger, Royal SE 150, 4 x 4 fully automatic, excellent condition. Reg. up to Nov 88. For details tele. 5635419, 5-8 pm. (AT4-41021-3)

MASARATI Quattro Porte 1982, manual transmission, blue metallic, 28000 kms, in excellent condition. KD4500 negotiable. Tel. Adil, 5511608/4710187 anytime. (AT3-40997-3)

MGB Tourer 1967, a collectors car, fantastic opportunity to buy a fast appreciating asset. Very good condition. Tel. Harry, 9021311, 5654368, 9 am - 9 pm. (AT3-40987-3)

MAZDA 1980, metallic grey, 5 speed, engine recently overhauled. Insured up to 1989. KD250 cash. Tel. 2415885. (AT5-41043-2)

SUZUKI 4WD Jeep SJ410, Dec. 1984, silver grey, 28000 km, in excellent condition. KD750. Tel. 2641896. (AT4-41010-2)

SAAB 900 turbo, 1982, registered till April 1988, white, automatic. KD550 ono. Tel. Mr. Atif, 4883311, 4883311, 8 am - 1 pm. (AT4-41017-3)

DODGE Le Baron 1981, AC, automatic, registered up to January 1989 in excellent condition. KD650. Tel. Mr. Paul, 4833076, 9 am - 12 noon, 5720136, after 2 pm. (AT5-41039-3)

HONDA Accord, 1983 model, fully automatic with AC and sunroof. In very good condition. KD1100. Tel. Mohammed, 4896309. (AT5-41030-3)

Cressida GL late 82, fully automatic, handled by businessman, must be seen, metallic blue, in excellent condition. KD 1250 ono cash. Tel. 4849178, 7 am - 2 pm. (AT3-41003-3)

Miscellaneous

Fully furnished two bedroom flat with all electrical home appliances and 3 split A/C units behind Indian School. Salmiya. Tel. 5643782, 2-7 pm. (AT4-41014-3)

IBM electronic typewriter 75 with memory. Full instruction manual. Excellent condition. Ideal for home or office. KD350. Tel. Edwardes, 5749023 4-8, after 2 pm 4833763 (C). (AT4-41024-3)

WASHER, electric oven, Technics stereo, master bedroom, children bedrooms, carpets, curtains, light fittings, children's slide, wardrobes, wood cabinets and other miscellaneous items. Tel. 5382129, 9 am - 12 noon, 5-7 pm. (AT5-41047-3)

NATIONAL microwave, Indesit, dishwasher, sofa 3+1+1, chest of drawers, oil heaters. Also Galant 83, super saloon (Mangaf). Tel. M. Khalil, 3712555, 4-7 pm. (AT5-41032-2)

2 SOFASETS, dining-table with 6 chairs, cupboards, beds, 2/1 ton air conditioners, 2 General, 1 washing machine with heater (new). Tel. 5655149, (res). (AT5-41041-2)

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* Villas
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Excellent condition with 2-3-4 bedrooms with Dining room, Saloon, Telephone, Garden, Car parking space. Servant's quarters with Central Airconditioning. Contact
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A DUAL bedroom, wooden bed, wooden cupboards, sofa set, glass table set, gas stove, TV, tele. line, also an attractive CAC flat in Abu Halifa. Tel. 3947297. (AT5-41034-2)

LOST

PASSPORT No. A 758542, Pakistani, Harneed Mohd Allah Buksh. Tel. 5633036, 7 am - 10.30 pm. (AT4-41019-3)

IDENTITY card No. 222808 and Civil Card No. 2510400899 in the name of Mohammad Salim Abdul Gani Shaikh, lost in Darwaza Abdul Razzak, Sharq. Tel. 2408354, or contact the Indian Embassy. (AT5-41035-3)

SITUATIONS

Vacant

MAID, required, non-Filipino for a small family to live-in. Must have transferable visa, references, speak fluent English and be a good cook. Tel. 3985942. (AT4-41027-3)

MAID, Filipino, required for a British family to live-in. Must have transferable visa, references, speak fluent English and be a good cook. Tel. 3985942. (AT4-41027-3)

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MAID required immediately for a family, every Sunday and Thursday, twice a week, 8 am - 2 pm. Tel. 4730957, 4-7 pm. (AT5-41049-2)

Wanted

MAID, Sri Lankan seeks employment with a kind European family. Needs accommodation for husband. Tel. 5644657, after 2.30 pm. (AT-JW-3)

MISCELLANEOUS

AVAILABLE to give piano lessons. Tel. 2615321 after 2 pm. (AT3-TM-3)

SERVICES

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REQUIRED from Salmiya (near Indian School) to Muthanna Complex (Fahd Al Salem Street), 8 am - 5 pm. Tel. 5629516. (AT5-41042-3)

FOR RENT
Villas, half villas, buildings, and flats with or without swimming pool.
Al Azraq
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Torkat Real Estate Est.
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b) Have a flair for mixing with people
c) Fluent in Arabic or English
d) Possess a valid Kuwaiti driving licence
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3 bedrooms, living room, dining room, maid room, 3 bathrooms and fully-equipped kitchen (CAC). You'll enjoy the beautiful garden, swimming pool, exercise room, basketball court, children's amusements, 24 hours maintenance and security. Rent KD260/- including water. Please call: 3721668 from 8 am to 4 pm, and 3918648 from 4 to 8 pm.

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یونانی امن تحریک گروپ کا فلسطینیوں کی شرکت سے اسرائیلی سفارت خانے تک احتجاجی جلوس

[illegible]

وزیروں کی ایسی کچھ افغانستان کے اسلحے کی فراہمی بھی بند کی جائے، سویت یونین سے
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[illegible]

میں نے سنا ہے کہ یہ ایک عجیب و غریب جگہ ہے۔

ایری نائب میر جاوید اور ماہر سب ۴۴ مرکزی کو پاکستان پیپلز نے

اسلام آباد ۱۲ فروری (کنا) امریکہ کے نائب وزیر خارجہ ہیلری کلنٹن نے ایک اجلاس کے دوران پاکستانی وزیر خارجہ خواجہ محمد رفیع کو مخاطب کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ امریکا پاکستان کے ساتھ مل کر دہشت گردی اور علاقائی امن کے خلاف مشترکہ کوششیں کر رہا ہے۔

داعش کے خلاف امریکی فوجی کارروائیوں کے نتیجے میں عراق کے شمال مغربی علاقوں میں داعش کے کمانڈر اور جنگجوؤں کی تعداد میں کمی آئی ہے۔

کے لیے پاکستانی وزارت خارجہ کے ایک ترجمان نے کہا ہے کہ امریکا کو یہ بھی افسانہ اقامت حقہ کے حصول تکہ

عالمی خبریں

یہ نکتہ کے مشاعرہ، دیوان کی ایک جلی تیار انکوائش کے کردار ہے۔

ترجمان کے بیان سے ہماری سچ فوج کی

تقریر سے یہ تاریخ بناتا ہے کہ حکومتیں سے اپنی

پولنگز اسکے باغوں کلاس پر حملہ ۱۹

شہر ہالاک

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۱۲۔ لیڈر (پ) کی سرگرمی اور کارکردگی کے بارے میں
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جنگل دہشتی اسٹیورٹ ڈاور اس کے دو
انجینئرنگ یونیورسٹی ہند
پیشہ سائنس
مکمل ہو گیا۔

برطانوی سائنس دان کو منشیاتی کی
اسنگ پر چل کر ہمارا

کراچی: اگر قومی (ڈائری) پاکستان حکام نے آج
کراچی کی ایک عجیب و غریب بند کر دی جہاں کیسوں میں
ملوث افراد کی

کے سمجھوتے کے زور سے ماحول میں سے پتہ لاس
حصہ کو لے کر اپنے کام کر رہا ہے۔ ہمارے کام ہے

کراچی سمجھوتے کی ملک کی تاحلیکیت کو سمیت زہار
ملوث افراد کی

بھولہ: اگر قومی (ڈائری) مرقعہ لسان کیا ہے کہ
کوشش کی جاتی رہی ہیں اور اس میں کوئی غلطی ملے گی

کشتیوں کے راہ قرار اختیار کر لی

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ہفتی کے دوسرے سہ ماہی

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توبل انعام یافتہ سائنسدان رچرڈ

نیویارک ۱۶ فروری (رائٹر) سابق امریکی صدر جیمز کارٹر نے ایک فرانسیسی سائنس دان کو جو اس کی طرف سے ایک بڑے مبلغ پر مشتمل عطیہ کیا ہے، توبل انعام کے لیے نامزد کیا گیا ہے۔

عین میں ہیں بے
 لاس اینجلس ۱۲ فروری (ایپ) فیصلہ نام یافتہ
 اسرائیل کو مشرقی کنارہ اور غوثی میں خود کم کرنے کے
 لئے نئے اہم قرارداد کی طور پر اعلان کیا گیا۔
 زیر التاج کو کمپوز اس کی ضرورت کی۔ بائبل
 کے قریب دیکھنا لے جایا ہے کہ یسیرین کا پیچھے کے شیخ
 موعظین کو سرکاری طور پر قبول اس کے لئے کامیاب
 باقی دوسرے صلحہ پر
 ہے اور ان کی کہ حاجت اس سے پہلے کی الحقیق
 اور البکر کے عراق میں مینٹوینوں پر حملے کرنے کی
 لندن ۱۲ فروری (رائٹر) لندن میں ایک سنگ میل پر

کے ایک سرب و کج علی الصبح ایک کلوس دھا کے
سے آگے کھڑی جس کے پیچھے ایک کلوس دھا کے
سے آگے کھڑی جس کے پیچھے ایک کلوس دھا کے

تعمیلی پارلیمنٹ کے مابین لاء کے اتحاد عوامی سرگودھا کے صدر پروفیسر

واللہ کا نام کی طرف سے مستغنی ہونے کے مطالبات کی مزاحمت
 افسوس کہ آج کی دنیا میں کسی تبدیلی کو اس کے کہنے پر
 ہے۔ ان کا خیال اگلا یہی ہے کہ سترہویں صدی

فوت اور بستان کی تم کے آگے جھکنے سے جمہوریت کو نقصان پہنچے گا قوم سے خطاب

دہلی، ۱۴ فروری (رائٹر) آسٹریا کے صدر کرٹ والڈاس نے جنرل فیض مسیح کے طور پر جنگی ریکارڈ

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میں نے اس کے ساتھ ساتھ ایک اور کتاب بھی لکھی ہے جس کا نام "اسرائیلی سفرت خانے کے نکاح میں مدخل لام کاہن کریم کی تاج ماری کی فتح" ہے۔ یہ کتاب بھی اب تک بازار میں دستیاب نہیں ہو سکی ہے۔

پانی دوسرے صحنہ پر

کرنا اذکار نامی فلمی جہان پر قدم رکھنا یا قریب تر مسلمانوں کی نظروں سے گزرنا، ان کے لیے ایک نیا تجربہ ہے۔

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انگلینڈ کی ٹیم نے ہندی لینڈ کے خلاف فٹ بال کھیل کر ایک جیت کا ریکارڈ بنایا۔

[illegible]

بھارتی فوج کے نئے چیف آف سٹاف جنرل کیلئے عہدہ کے خلاف پورے کرناٹک سٹیج کے سامنے کھڑے ہوئے۔

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سید علی ہاشم علی نقی صاحب مدظلہ العالی نے فرمایا ہے کہ جو شخص اپنے آپ کو سید علی ہاشم علی نقی صاحب مدظلہ العالی کے نام سے پکارتا ہے وہ سید علی ہاشم علی نقی صاحب مدظلہ العالی کے واسطے ہے۔
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the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are under 15 years of age is expected to increase from 1.1 billion to 1.5 billion. The number of people aged 65 and over is expected to increase from 250 million to 450 million. The number of people aged 15 and over is expected to increase from 3.5 billion to 4.5 billion. The number of people aged 15 and over is expected to increase from 3.5 billion to 4.5 billion. The number of people aged 15 and over is expected to increase from 3.5 billion to 4.5 billion.

Backgammon tournament



Joe Daccache with some of the trophies for the 1988 Backgammon Championship

WHAT have the Duke of Wellington, Thomas Jefferson, Mohammed Ali, Jimmy Connors and Sir Winston Churchill and Joe Daccache, public relations manager of the Kuwait Hilton all got in common? They all love to play backgammon. But unlike the others, Joe has actually done something about helping his favourite game by organising the 1988 Backgammon championship which is sponsored by Parfums Paco Rabanne in collaboration with the Hilton, Gulf Air and Promopub.

Over 1,000 participants will take part in the Gulf-wide tournament which opens in Kuwait on March 6 and continues till March 8 then moves on to the Hilton in Dubai from 10th to the 12th, to Abu Dhabi from 18th to the 20th and finally to the Bahrain Hilton from 27th to 29th.

The winners of each section will be flown to Bahrain for the grand final on March 30.

Two hundred fifty six competitors will take part in each of the national tournaments. The winner of the Gulf Championship trophy will also get a free return ticket to the Far East, and the runner up will get a return ticket to Nairobi. There will also be trophies and prizes for the winners of each national tournament.

Everyone is legible to join in the tournament and registration will be on a first come first served basis. Entry forms are available at the Hilton.

The word "backgammon" comes from the Welsh: "bac" means little and "gamm" means war. It is said to originate in Persia and legend has it that Aristotle taught the game to Alexander the Great.

Schoolboy beats world champion

LONDON, Feb 16, (AP) — Michael Adams, a 16-year-old British schoolboy chess prodigy, defeated world champion Garry Kasparov by television satellite yesterday.

Adams, who played in London, was one of 10 young opponents in 10 countries and whom the Soviet grandmaster played simultaneously from Cannes in Southern France.

NBA results

NEW YORK, Feb 16 (Reuters) — Results of the National Basketball Association (NBA) games played yesterday (only games scheduled):

Game	Score
Bulls vs Hawks	110-107
Cavaliers vs Kings	95-96
Pistons vs Nets	96-96
Warriors vs Spurs	122-122
Mavericks vs SuperSonics	122-122
Celtics vs Suns	108-108
Utah Jazz vs Trail Blazers	94-94

FRIDAY'S racing at the Ahmadi kart track saw Roh Baker clinch his second Kuwait National Drivers Championship. Baker had won the first four rounds of the KNDK with very little visible competition, and at that point needed only one more win to seal his victory. However, the fifth round proved a disaster, with two engines written off during the day's racing. Baker nevertheless finished second, needing only two more points to win the title, with two more races days to go. Had Baker finished fourth, that title would have been equally secure.

Elated
Baker told the Arab Times that he was "elated" to win, and that although he still hopes for victory in the second competition to be held at the club, the Ahmadi Challenge Cup, he would be giving up kart racing at the end of this season. "I don't like the way the club has gone," he said, adding that he had now won the title for the second year running. A report the club sent to Kuwait Times even said he was merely "close to winning" the title, and concentrated instead on the driver who came in fifth.

"When someone is winning all the time, other people can't help itching for something to go wrong," he said, adding that although this was perhaps understandable, the attitude of fellow members had at times amounted to a hate campaign.

ENGLAND SKITTLED OUT FOR 152 IN SECOND INNINGS

New Zealand need 304 to win

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, Feb. 16, (Reuters) — England were bowled out in their second innings for 152 in the first cricket Test today, setting New Zealand 304 to win in the 95 overs available on the last day.

On an unpredictable and difficult pitch England should win, despite their modest-looking second innings total.

Hoping to score rapidly after play had been delayed because of rain until 4.00 pm, they instead found themselves bogged down and lost wickets steadily after starting the day at 55 for two.

Loss
In three hours they made only 97 for the loss of eight wickets. Ewen Chatfield ending with four for 36 off 30 overs and Martin Snedden four for 45.

The New Zealand bowlers dominated from the first over when Chatfield and Martin Moxon, who top scored with 27, caught at mid-wicket by Andrew Jones.

Phil Defreitas (16) and Paul Jarvis (10 not out) kept the score moving later on and 50 runs were scored in the last hour.

But Gatting said later he would have liked to have had wickets in hand so he could bat on briefly tomorrow and then use the heavy roller to help break up the pitch.

His biggest problem could be the weather, with more rain and bad light predicted.

Scoreboard
ENGLAND first innings 319
NEW ZEALAND first innings

J Wright c Moxon b Dilly 10
T Franklin c Athey b Dilly 10
A Jones c French b Dilly 8
M Crowe c Moxon b Dilly 5
J Crowe c French b Defreitas 28
J Bracewell c French b Dilly 31
R Hadlee c French b Dilly 37
I Smith c Capel b Jarvis 13
M Snedden lbw Defreitas 0
D Morrison b Jarvis 0
E Chatfield not out 0
Extras (b-2 lb-12 nb-12) 26
Total 152
Fall of wickets: 1-20 2-25 3-32 4-40 5-96 6-131 7-151 8-155 9-156

Bowling: Defreitas 22-6-39-2 (nb), Dilly 24-5-38-4 (nb), Capel 10-2-32-0, Jarvis 21-8-45-2, Embury 4-3-4-0

ENGLAND second innings
C Broad c sub (Gresham) b Chatfield 20
M Moxon c Jones b Chatfield 27
T Robinson c Wright b Chatfield 22
M Snedden b Snedden 23

Game No 4: UAS 26 [Mahmoud Mokhtar (3), Amir Gul (3), George Georgopolis (3), David Gagner (2), Ossama Javadi (2), Walid Khalil (1), Steve Georgopolis (1), Jordan Van Rye (1), Majeed Jamshedi (2), Nader Al Ajami (1), Kareem Abu Zeid (2), Basal Al Shamiri (2), Meshal Al Khahbar (2), T C R 9 [Jamal (2), Clifford (2), Racepan (1), Chuck (2), Ravi (2)].

Game No 5: Magcobar 13 [Jun Yoshimura (2), Aziz Al Arfaj (1), Tarek Abou Amin (2), Yusef Al Qallaf (2), Samer Koubaisi (1), Rihiuzo Shimizu (1), Koichi Hozumi (1), Matthew Burchfield (1), Makoto Inai (2) Computink 10 [Farris Afrima (1), Paul Colburne (1), Scott Fortes (1), Paul Runtz (3), Donet Ha Lee (3), Mohammed Khan (1)].

Football teams BFC challenged UAS in the 4th game of today's game. A win was not to happen for BFC again today with 2 odds against them, by four players turn-up for the game and out field or defensive play was weak.

Game No 1: Al Julaiha 25 [Bibi Ibrahim (1) Raid Al Labadi (3), Hitham Rajab (5), Gibran Hamdan (4), Khalifa Missnid (3), Patrick Khalis (3), Nawaf Abu Rade (3), Mohammed Ahmed (2), Tarek Hamdan (1), M & M's 24 [Ryan Fox (3), Sami Behbehani (2), Yaseen Ali (1), Ali Al Qallaf (1), Rakman Al Salem (2), Lucas Runie (1), Andrew Colwell (2), Yassin Al Salem (2), Austin Smith (2), Ridha Behbehani (1), Ussamah Al Arfaj (2)].

Game No 2: Getty 20 [Denny Stucker (2), Ahmed Al Najjar (2), Qussai Othman (1), Yusef Al Najjar (3), Rohby Bhatia (2), Johnny Miller (2), Ahmed Mokhtar (3), Ramsey Hall (1), Rami Hajj (1), Nicki Pareak (1), Kareem Nakshbendi (1), Mazin Sbt (1), Santa Fe Braun 4 [Sommer Al Nasrallah (1), Mahamed Khuraibet (1), Tariq Abdul Hameed (2)].

Game No 3: A.M. Ambassadors 10 [Cory Fox (1), Talal Navarro (2), Hisham Navarro (1), Erik Fox (2), Keita Miyataka (1), Kae Lee (2), Jihad Sakhele (1), Santa Fe International 2 [Thari Ibrahim (1), Vincent Polk (1)].

Magcobar win over Computink

By Sue Behbehani

LITTLE League team Computink hunted heads against Magcobar for the final game and also a low and close scoring game. In the 1st inning Magcobar scored 3 runs and held Computink to no runs, but in the 2nd inning Computink scored 3 runs and held Magcobar to no runs. The 3rd inning was more of the same with a slight lead for Computink making 4 runs and holding Magcobar to 3 runs. Magcobar came away with the lead in the 4th and last inning with 8 runners crossing home plate, while holding Computink with 2 runs.

The scoring was kept low and close in this game mainly because both teams played the game with good out field defense.

Final score Computink 10 and Magcobar 13.

Her is the list of games played on Friday, Feb. 5.

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Game No 2: Getty 20 [Denny Stucker (2), Ahmed Al Najjar (2), Qussai Othman (1), Yusef Al Najjar (3), Rohby Bhatia (2), Johnny Miller (2), Ahmed Mokhtar (3), Ramsey Hall (1), Rami Hajj (1), Nicki Pareak (1), Kareem Nakshbendi (1), Mazin Sbt (1), Santa Fe Braun 4 [Sommer Al Nasrallah (1), Mahamed Khuraibet (1), Tariq Abdul Hameed (2)].

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In fact, in their anxiety to score, the Nomads were giving away a disproportionate number of penalties, and, as a result, enabled Muscat to take an early 3-0 lead. However, that was a signal for Kuwait to double their efforts, and they hit back almost immediately.

Struggling
The Nomads won a scrum against the beard, and with their three-quarters struggling to re-align, full-back Jonathan Brown had the presence of mind to come from a deep position to receive a pass from Graham Adams and burst through several tackles to cross the line.

The slender 4-3 lead did not last long, as Kuwait infringed again and Muscat went ahead 6-4. That was the last time Muscat looked like scoring and the game became a procession of scoring opportunities for the Nomads.

They re-gained the lead with a Con Barry try, converted by Adams, after good forward support and driving play.

Then Adams put them the key seven points clear with a well taken penalty. Brown got his brace with a simple but effective move which took the Muscat defence completely by surprise and Adams converted to give Kuwait a 19-6 advantage at the break.

Although Muscat stuck to their task of trying to contain by a now rampant Nomads' side, it was still one way traffic after the interval.

Steve Hill reaped the benefit of some excellent loose work by the Nomads' pack, and found himself with a clear path to the line. Then Dave Bulless, whose pace had rarely been utilised, came through with a searing run which the Muscat defence found untoppable.

Finally, the front row took over, as first Barry, then Jack Braid, were on hand to score tries after further good second phase possession. Adams added the final conversion for the 37-6 scoreline at no-side.

This was a much improved Nomads' performance, and owed much to their willingness to vary the modus operandi to suit

the situation and to cause confusion in their opponents' minds. The handling in the three-quarters was excellent, as was the tackling, and brown was out-

standing in both defence and attack.

In the pack, Tony Sole did a fabulous job, coming in as a late replacement for Mike Robinson

who was confined to his sick bed, and the whole eight supported each other throughout, with Phil Quinn particularly noticeable in this respect.

Hadlee said the same story chopped up every three months and that he was repeatedly asked if he had been approached.

Approached
The Daily Mirror said South African businessman John Fisher, currently on a cricket supporters' tour of New Zealand for the England-New Zealand Test series, had approached players on behalf of South

African newspaper and brewing interests.

The paper said Hadlee, Botham, Pakistan's Imran Khan and West Indian Viv Richards would each be offered £500,000 (\$865,000) to play in four unofficial Tests and one-day international.

Other players each would get £200,000 (\$330,000) it said. They were said to include Chris Broad, Graham Gooch, John Emburey, Malcolm Marshall, Kapil Dev, Sunil Gavaskar and the tour would depend on acceptance by Australian captain Alan Border.

Big one
"Border really is the big one," the paper quoted Fisher as saying. "We want him to lead the side, and if he agrees he can write his own cheque."

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Vishwanath retires

NEW DELHI, Feb 16, (Reuters) — Former Indian Test team member Gundappa Vishwanath, 39, has announced his retirement from competitive cricket.

The short and stocky player who set standards of stylish batting said yesterday that he found it difficult to field for a whole day, although he could bat as well as he did in Tests from 1969 to 1982.

"I would have liked to continue, but my legs can't," said Vishwanath after his final game for his state, Karnataka.

Vishwanath hit 14 centuries, including one on his Test debut against Australia in the 1969 home series, while making 6,080 runs in 91 Tests.

Imran to join Sussex club
LONDON, Feb 16, (Reuters) — Pakistan cricket captain Imran Khan will join his English county club Sussex on May 1 after the Pakistan tour of the West Indies, missing the club's first three one-day games of the season.

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Hadlee, Crowe deny South African offer

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, Feb 16, (Reuters) — New Zealand's Richard Hadlee and Martin Crowe have denied suggestions that they were offered large sums of money to play in a rebel cricket tour of South Africa.

The Daily Mirror in London said they were being sought for a world team which would tour the republic next year as part of the South African Cricket Union's centenary celebrations.

"It's news to me," Hadlee told reporters today.

"I have never been approached," Crowe said.

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African newspaper and brewing interests.

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1988 Winter Olympics

Medal standings

TOTAL Medals after events Monday, second full day of competition at the Winter Olympics:

Nation	G	S	B	T
Soviet Union	2	2	1	5
East Germany	2	0	0	2
Switzerland	1	1	0	2
Finland	1	0	1	2
Czechoslovakia	0	1	1	2
Netherlands	0	1	0	1
West Germany	0	1	0	1
France	0	0	1	1
Japan	0	0	1	1
Norway	0	0	1	1

SPORTS BRIEFS

Friendly soccer

LONDON, Feb. 16, (Reuters): Monaco beat Tottenham 4-0 in a soccer friendly here yesterday.

Israel rejects

TEL AVIV, Feb. 16, (Reuters): Israeli tennis officials today rejected India's plea to have their Davis Cup world group relegation tie, scheduled for Tel Aviv in April, switched to London.

India, a strong supporter of the Palestinians, normally shuns sporting links with Israel, and their request to let the match be played at a neutral venue had already been refused by the International Tennis Federation (ITF).

Forest refuse

LONDON, Feb. 16, (Reuters): Nottingham Forest have again refused the Welsh Football Association (FA) permission to approach Brian Clough to become manager of Wales.

Forest chairman Maurice Roworth said today that the club were sticking by the unanimous decision of the club's board last Thursday.

Walsh joins

LONDON, Feb. 16, (Reuters): Paul Walsh, who has made just seven appearances as a substitute for English First Division leaders Liverpool this season, joined Tottenham yesterday for a fee of £500,000 (\$875,000).

Injuries and fierce competition for places at Anfield restricted the former League striker to just 77 League games with Liverpool following his £700,000 move from Luton almost four years ago.

Turkish member

CALGARY, Alberta, Feb. 16, (AP): An International Olympic Committee member from Turkey who is seriously ill with cancer has been flown home in a Canadian military jet, officials said yesterday.

Turgut Atakol, 72, left Calgary early Sunday aboard a Canadian Forces plane authorised by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. Atakol was too ill to fly in a commercial jet. IOC and Canadian officials said.

Title fight

TOKYO, Feb. 16, (Reuters): Leo Gamez of Venezuela will defend his World Boxing Association (WBA) minimum title against Japan's Kenji Yokosawa on April 24, organisers said today.

It will be Gamez's first defence of the WBA's lightest weight (47.7 kg) category.

Masters

MELBOURNE, Feb. 16, (Reuters): Welsh Dynamo Ian Woosnam will be battling with a mystifying loss of form and a back injury as well as a high-class field when the Australian Masters Golf tournament gets under way on Thursday.

Woosnam, who won more than \$1.5 million last year, has been struggling to correct a problem which saw him shoot a horrendous first round 79 in Hong Kong last week.

First England cap

LONDON, Feb. 16, (AP): Chris Oti, the lightning-fast Cambridge University wing, wins his first England cap in the five nations Rugby Union championship match against Scotland at Murrayfield on March 5, the selectors announced today.

Oti is one of three chances in the backs from the sides that lost to France and Wales. There is also one positional switch. Rory Underwood moving to the right wing to accommodate Oti in his favourite position on the left.

Ferguson deal

GLASGOW, Scotland, Feb. 16, (Reuters): Glasgow Rangers manager Graeme Souness took his spending over the past two years to about £6.7 million (\$11.72 million) yesterday when he signed Scottish under-21 international Ian Ferguson.

The 20-year-old St Mirren midfielder joined the club he has supported since boyhood to end a three-month tug-of-war between his club and Rangers. The St Mirren board had resisted three previous offers for the highly rated Ferguson.

Slowcoach cashes in

CALGARY, Feb. 16, (Reuters): Athletes do not get paid for competing in the Olympics, but Raymond Ocampo still managed to cash in on his performance in the men's single luge race.

The Filipino luger collected 25 cent after betting he would not finish last in the four-run event which ended yesterday.

Ocampo took 35th place among the 36 finishers, clocking a tardy three minutes 27.661 seconds.

That was 22 seconds behind East German winner Jens Mueller, but two ahead of the man who took the bet — Alberto Carpentier Altin of the Netherlands Antilles.

Puerto Rican George Tucker, at 40 the oldest luger on the circuit, achieved his ambition by beating both of them for 34th spot.

"I'm going to insist I was in on the bet. Tell them I was down for \$100," Tucker said.

PETER MUELLER'S CHALLENGE FENDED OFF

Zurbriggen grabs gold in downhill skiing

CALGARY, Feb. 16, (Reuters): Pirmin Zurbriggen proved himself an Olympic skiing champion of rare class when he answered a tremendous challenge by Peter Mueller with a gold medal triumph in the men's downhill yesterday.

Mueller, who deposed his Swiss compatriot as world downhill champion last year, destroyed rivals in the elite field with his opening run on the 3,147-metre Mount Allan track.

Bul Zurbriggen, evoking memories of Frenchman Jean-Claude Killy and Austrian Franz Klammer, refused to crack and overbawled Mueller with a charge from the 14th start position which shredded an impressive 0.51 of a second from his rival's pace-setting time.

Mueller, silver medalist at the 1984 Sarajevo Olympics behind American Bill Johnson, watched powerless from the bottom of the track as Zurbriggen swept home

for a victory he said crowned his career.

Franck Piccard launched himself down the track immediately after Zurbriggen and claimed the bronze, the first French men's Olympic downhill medal since Killy and Guy Périllat finished first and second in 1968.

The race was run 24 hours late after tempestuous winds of up to 160 kph forced postponement on Sunday. The wind dropped yesterday.

While Zurbriggen emphatically banished the disappointment of Sarajevo, where he finished only fourth in the downhill, a downcast Mueller had to settle for silver again.

Great run

"I knew at the start that Mueller had a great run. I never saw him ski so well. I was impressed and knew I would have to go beyond my limits to beat him," said Zurbriggen, reigning World Cup overall and downhill champion.

"Going into the start-house my knees were weak. The pressure at the last moment was great but I looked forward to it because I knew that in these circumstances I can really produce my best."

The result gave Switzerland their first men's Olympic downhill title since Bernhard Russi, who designed this Mount Allan course, won the 1972 gold in Sapporo.

Russi must have sympathised with Mueller's predicament, recalling how he had waited at the bottom of the hill in Innsbruck in 1976 as Klammer charged off with the gold and deposed him as Olympic champion.

"It was a wild run in the first turns. I even touched the snow twice with my hand," Zurbriggen said.

"When I saw my time I just couldn't believe it. I thought I was dreaming and I thanked God for helping me achieve this."

Zurbriggen clocked one min-

ute 59.63 seconds, with Mueller second in 2:00.14 and Piccard third in 2:01.24.

Leonard Stock, surprise champion of the 1980 Lake Placid Olympic downhill, lost time at the top of the course and could manage only fourth place as the once-mighty Austrians failed to win a men's Olympic downhill medal for the first time since 1968.

Zurbriggen has a chance of four more gold medals in Calgary but said: "I will try to win more but I don't need to win more to be happy."

The unassuming Swiss racer, whose girl-friend Monika Julen was there at the end to embrace him, phoned his parents and sister Heidi from the finish-line and dedicated his victory to them.

Mueller said he had been put off at the start because he had first been told he had 30 seconds to wait and was then almost immediately ordered to go.



Zurbriggen celebrates his victory. (Reuters wirephoto)

Mueller takes gold in luge singles

CALGARY, Alberta, Feb. 16, (AP): Jens Mueller of East Germany easily won the gold medal in the men's luge singles yesterday at the Winter Olympics. West Germany took the silver medal and the Soviet Union got the bronze.

Mueller, 22 and the runner-up in two recent major championships, slid down the 1,251-metre (4,104-foot) course in 46.467 seconds in the fourth and final heat for a combined total of 3:05.548. His time was nearly four-tenths of a second faster than Georg Hackl of West Germany at 3:05.916.

Turned

Hackl, 21, who beat Mueller for the European Championship last month, turned in a strong fourth run of 46.409 seconds to beat out Soviet national champion Yuri Kharchenko for the silver.

Kharchenko, 24, won the bronze with a final run of 46.803 for a total of 3:06.274.

Mueller was first on three of the four runs in the two days of competition. He ran second only to Hackl in yesterday's first heat. Mueller's 14 years as a competitive luger brought him to the brink of success over the past few months as he finished second to Markus Prock of Austria for the 1987 World Championship and second to Hackl for the European title.

He emerged as the favourite for the Olympic gold medal by finishing second twice and first twice in his last four training runs last week.

He then broke Prock's course record by nearly a half second



Strain shows on the face of Mueller as he prepares to begin his run. (Reuters wirephoto)

in Sunday's first heat with a run of 46.301 seconds, and he remained in first place throughout the competition.

Two of Mueller's teammates were narrowly beaten for medals. Thomas Jacob was fourth at 3:06.358 and Michael Walter took fifth at 3:06.933.

Defending gold medalist Paul Hildgartner of Italy was 10th at 3:07.696.

Prock finished 11th with 3:07.735.

Gerhard Sandbacher of Austria, who was 14th after Sunday's two heats, was disqualified for having too much weight on the third run.

"I was so excited last night I got less than six hours sleep," Mueller said after he'd clinched the gold medal in men's singles in his first Olympic appearance.

The East German student set a course record in his first heat Sunday morning and remained in first place all the way through the four-beat, two-day competition.

"After yesterday's two runs, I was very confident I could win," Mueller said.

Dropped

Hackl, a locksmith from Berchtesgaden, was second entering yesterday's final heats, dropped to fourth place after his morning run and had to rebound in the last heat to earn a medal.

"I hit the wall midway through the first run today and I knew immediately that was the end of any chance for the gold medal," Hackl said. "But I wasn't too disappointed, and I made a strong fourth run to win a medal."

Sabatini outlasts Henricksson

OAKLAND, California, Feb. 16, (UPI): Second seeded Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina outlasted Ann Henricksson 7-5, 6-4 in a tough opening match last night in the \$250,000 Virginia Slims of California.

Sabatini led a group of favourites into the second round. Fifth seed Sylvia Hanika, No. 7 Mary Jo Fernandez and No. 8 Catarina Lindqvist also captured straight-set victories on the tournament's opening day.

Topped

Hanika of West Germany topped Terry Phelps, 6-4, 6-4, Fernandez, the only American in the top eight seeds, beat Elly Hakami, 7-5, 6-3, and Sweden's Lindqvist defeated Akiko Kijimura, 6-0, 6-1.

In other first-round action: Elena Reinach of South Africa downed Natalia Bykova of the Soviet Union, 7-5, 6-2. Wendy White downed Rosalyn Fairbank, 6-4, 1-6, 6-3, and Larisa Savchenko of the Soviet Union dispatched Marianne Werdel, 6-1, 6-3.

There are six Soviet competitors in the field. Sabatini, 17, said she spent the off season ignoring tennis and concentrating on getting in better shape. She said she was rusty after the layoff.

"It definitely was a problem. I definitely showed," she said. "I tried to get myself into better physical condition after the (1987) season. I didn't play tennis. I just worked on my physical condition. When I started playing tennis again in January, I worked on my serve. I need a stronger serve."

Repeated

Her match with Henricksson saw repeated service breaks by both competitors, including the first six games. Sabatini had to rally to capture the second set.

Henricksson said: "That's the trait of all good players."



Sabatini's victory

Everybody in the top 10 does that.

Sabatini, who won two tournaments last year, is seeking a grand slam victory. Her best finish in one of the four majors was a semifinal berth in last year's French Open.

Sabatini also thinks she is narrowing the gap between her and fellow teenage star Steffi Graf. Sabatini is 0-11 in matches against the West German.

"I'm getting closer, but she's still a bit more physical than I am," she said of Graf, who is

bypassing the Oakland event. "I have to improve my serve before I'm able to beat her."

Sabatini won more than \$500,000 last year and has learned to live in the limelight.

Walk down

"I can't walk down the street (in Argentina) without someone recognising me," she said. "I like it. They say nice things; they like me."

Sabatini begins the tournament seeded behind Martina Navratilova, who opens play tonight against Stephanie Rehe.

West Germany and Soviet Union gain victory in hockey

Czechoslovaks stage comeback to beat US

CALGARY, Alberta, Feb. 16, (AP): Czechoslovakia, on the verge of virtual elimination from the Olympic hockey tournament, instead has muddled the medal-round picture.

The third-seeded Czechoslovaks were down 3-0 to the No. 7 United States with just over six minutes gone in last night's game. But they blasted their way back into medal contention with four third-period goals, winning 7-5.

Whipped

A loss would have dropped highly touted Czechoslovakia to 0-2 in the "B" pool while the Americans would have been tied at 2-0 with sixth-seeded West Germany, a 7-3 winner earlier in the day over Norway, and the No. 2 Soviets, who whipped Austria 8-1.

Instead, the Czechoslovaks are tied with the United States at 1-1 and only have to face the Soviets among the pool's top teams. The Americans face the powerful Soviets tomorrow night and then still have to play the West Germans.

The top three teams in each of the two pools advance to the medal round.

The Americans scored on their first three shots and knocked world-class goalie Dominik Hasek out of the net. After a Czechoslovak goal, that team's new goalie Jaromir Sidel was victimised by Dave Snuggard's power-play tally, boosting America's lead to 4-1.

Rallied

But the Czechoslovaks gamely rallied, finally tying the score 4-4 on Antonin Slaviana's goal early in the third period.

Again the United States went ahead, on Scott Fusco's power-play goal.

And again Czechoslovakia rallied. This time it was hero Dusan Pesak, who beat US goalie Mike Richter. He then sent a cross-ice feed to Igor Laba for the game-winning short-handed goal and added an empty-netter for good measure.

The 11th-seeded Austrians were tied 1-1 with the Soviets early in the first period. But the Soviet Union then netted a short-

handed goal, starting a string of seven straight scores, including four in a five-minute stretch of the second period.

Still, Norway assistant coach Tore Jobs, whose team lost to the Soviets in the first round, wasn't impressed.

"The Soviets aren't as good as they usually are," he said.

Trouble

The Soviet Union, the defending Olympic champion and winner of six of the last eight gold medals, has had trouble in the past year. Sweden won the World Championship in April and Canada beat the Soviet Union at the Irvistva tournament in Moscow in December and in a pre-Olympic tuneup last Wednesday.

Gerd Trunskicka scored twice and Helmut Steiger added a goal and two assists for West Germany, which fully dominated Norway.

West German coach Xaver Unsinn isn't surprised his team is being mentioned in the same breath as the Soviet team.

Unsinn has been getting solid goaltending from Karl Frieseisen

and Helmut de Raaf. The goalies have received solid protection from captain Udo Kiessling and the other defencemen.

And the opportunistic offense has been bolstered by the play of Helmut Steiger, who has four points in two games, including a goal and two assists against Norway.

"I knew there was an outside chance that we'd be 2-0 if we played carefully and cleverly," Unsinn said. "It's not the first time we beat the Czechs."

Forecasting

"I'm not forecasting the medal round," Unsinn said. "But I said if we beat the Americans, the Russians or the Canadians, the sky's the limit. I won't go into that today."

The "A" pool resumes play tonight, with top-seeded Sweden meeting No. 8 Poland, fourth-seeded Canada playing surprising No. 9 Switzerland and No. 5 Finland seeking to rebound against 12th-seeded France.

Sweden, Canada and Switzerland all won their first-round games.

Soviets race to victory in men's 30km cross-country

CANMORE, Alberta, Feb. 16, (AP): Alexei Prokourorov and Vladimir Smirnov of the Soviet Union finished 1-2 yesterday in the men's 30-kilometre cross-country ski race at the Winter Olympics. Norway took the bronze medal.

Prokourorov completed the course in 1 hour, 24 minutes, 26.3 seconds. Smirnov, who held the early lead before giving way to his teammate, finished 8.8 seconds back.

Vegard Ulvang of Norway was third in 1:25:11.6.

Reminiscent

The Soviets' feat was reminiscent of the country's famed "Z Boys" four years ago.

At the Winter Olympics at Sarajevo, Yugoslavia, Nikolai Zimyatov and Aleksander Saviyalov went 1-2 in the 30-kilometre. The Z Boys combined for nine Olympic medals in their careers, including the single gold and three silvers they collected at Sarajevo.

Soccer tourney

BOYS Own Club are having their third seven-a-side football tournament on the Feb. 19 at Al Sour Ground. The draw will be held at 7:00 am in the morning on the same day and the first game will be at 7:30 am. Chief guest for this tournament is Christian Bulow (Danish) sales coordinator from Hemptels Paint (Kuwait). For more information teams can contact Joe d'Souza by telephone 4813622/25 ext 147.

Prokourorov and Smirnov served notice that a new generation of Soviet men have arrived, leaving the favoured Swedes far in their wake and missing a sweep only because of a late sprint by Ulvang.

Mikhail Deviatarov of the Soviet Union was relegated to fourth, 19.7 seconds behind the Norwegian. Italy's Giorgio Vanzetta was fifth in 1:25:37.2.

Gunde Svan, Sweden's triple World Cup champion and winner of two golds, a silver and a bronze in 1984, staggered in 10th, more than three minutes behind the winner. Another Swedish standout, Thomas Wassberg, was 42nd, almost seven minutes further back.

The difficult course had a total climb of 1,194 metres (3,502 feet), with a tough 70-metre (yard) ascent between the first and second kilometre (mile).

The racers made three tours of the 10-kilometre trail at Canmore in temperatures near freezing.

There were 91 starters. "I had no problems with my wax," Prokourorov said. "Smirnov was my favourite."

Consecutive

It was the fifth consecutive Soviet victory at 30 kilometres for the Soviets and the third straight Olympics in which they finished 1-2. Zimyatov and Vassily Rochev took the gold and silver at Lake Placid in 1980.

The Soviets are strong in classical style racing and were expected to do well in the race, but Sweden's demise was a shock.



Prokourorov of Soviet Union crosses the finish line.

Keretic advances to face Edberg

MEMPHIS, Tennessee, Feb. 16, (Reuters): Damiir Keretic, who has gotten used to unlucky draws, defeated American Rickley Reneburg yesterday for the right to face top seed Stefan Edberg of Sweden in the second round of the \$415,000 US indoor tennis championship.

Draw

The Yugoslav-born West German needed a third set tiebreak to defeat Reneburg 6-4, 4-6, 6-1 in the first round and must next meet defending champion Edberg, who this week dropped to number three in the world.

"It seems I always draw someone in the top 10 in the early rounds," said Keretic following his victory. "Last year, I lost to Yannick Noah, Ivan Lendl, Guy Forget, Boris Becker, Henri Leconte and Emilio Sanchez in the second round of tournaments."

"I have come to expect this kind of draw because of my ranking. I don't even look at the draw sheet any more, I just assume it," said Keretic, ranked 121.

After splitting the first two sets, Keretic jumped off to a 2-0 lead in the third, only to fall behind 3-4 to the determined

Reneburg.

Keretic managed only one point in the 11th game to fall back to 5-6, but came back strong in the next game, opening with an ace and forcing a tiebreak which he won 7-5.

Byes

The top seeds received byes into the second round were Ecuador's Andres Gomez, seeded second, will play Peru's Jaime Yzaga, a 6-3 6-3 winner over Chris Pridham of Canada and third seed David Pate of the US will meet South Africa's Gary Muller, who beat US doubles specialist Ken Flach 6-4 6-3.

First upset

MILAN, Italy, Feb. 16, (Reuters): Michiel Schapers caused the first upset of the Italian indoor tennis championships yesterday when he beat sixth-seeded Emilio Sanchez of Spain 7-5 6-3 in the first round.

In other first-round matches Alex Antonitsch of Austria easily overcame Josef Cibak of Czechoslovakia 6-1 6-4 and Milan Strejber of Czechoslovakia fought back from a shaky start against Swede Christian Bergstrom to win 3-6 6-4 6-4.

Defending champion and top seed Boris Becker meets Guy Forget of France today while number two seed Jimmy Connors play David Lewis of New Zealand.